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SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

EUROPEAN ARTS
Weekend Times
page 40

50p

Women tipped for cabinet after Tories sweep back with 21 majority

Major plans reshuffle today

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major returned to Downing Street yesterday with his personal mandate and an overall majority of 21 seats, promising to unveil his new team of senior ministers today.

Telling staff it was good to be back, he quickly turned his attention to selecting his cabinet, which will include at least one woman. Gillian Shephard, the Treasury minister, and Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, are expected to figure in the reshuffle.

Mr Major's government was returned with 336 seats in the Commons in a result that confounded pollsters' expectations. Labour took 271 seats, with the Liberal Democrats on 20 and others on 24.

The Conservatives took 43 per cent of the vote, marginally more than under Margaret Thatcher in 1987 despite the recession. Labour took 35 per cent, up four points on 1987 and the Liberal Democrats took 18 per cent, a drop of five points on the level achieved by the SDP/Liberal Alliance at the previous general election. The turnout for Thursday's election was 77 per cent, compared to 73 per cent in 1987.

Last night some of the prime minister's senior colleagues were speculating that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, might move to a new post leaving Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, and John MacGregor, Leader of

the Commons, as the favourites to take over at the Treasury. Although Mr Major is said to have found his Chancellor rather cautious, Mr Lamont's associates feel that he has "taken the heat" while the economy has been in trouble and should be allowed more time in the job while the economy improves.

Colleagues say that Michael Heseltine, whose major role in the election campaign is acknowledged in No 10, could almost name his own post if he chose to be difficult. They do not, however, expect the environment secretary to cause trouble and believe that he would be happy with the revamped Department of Trade and Industry. Sir Norman Fowler, the former employment secretary who left Mrs Thatcher's cabinet to spend more time with his family, is one of the names being mooted for home secretary.

Chris Patten, who lost Bath in the election after trying to combine running the Tories' national campaign with nursing a highly marginal seat, will stay on for a short while as party chairman but has not yet made up his mind whether to continue his political career. Mr Patten has advised the prime minister against any attempt to create a by-election to get him back in the Commons although Mr Major is keen to see him back in a senior cabinet role.

Among those expected to leave the cabinet are Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Tom King, the defence secretary. Friends say that Mr Major is a reluctant butcher, but there are question marks too about the future of William Waldegrave, the health secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary who clashed with the prime minister before the election over the future of British Rail, and Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. However, not all of those ministers will go in the reshuffle, which is said to be intended to freshen up the cabinet without a radical restructuring.

In a change announced in the Tory manifesto the energy ministry will be wound up. There will be two new cabinet posts, one in charge of the national heritage ministry, which will also look after sport and the arts, and another for a minister to take charge of the citizen's charter and civil service reform.

Mr Major had planned to bring into the cabinet two Treasury ministers who lost their seats in the election, Francis Maude and John Maples. The middle-ranking ministers who are in line for advancement to the cabinet are John Patten, who has been a highly capable minister of state for six years and who has an acknowledged flair for policy presentation, and Michael Portillo, the local government minister who had to push through the changes to the poll tax.

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STATE OF PARTIES		
	Gains	Losses
Conservative	11	44
Labour	48	5
Lib Dem	4	6
Others	2	10
	336	271
	20	24

Swing C to Lab: 2.06% Swing LD to C: 2.09% Swing LD to Lib: 4.15%

Full constituency results in supplement

CHAMPAGNE flowed and shares soared as the City celebrated the Conservative victory. After trading shares and sterling all night, dealers virtually shut up shop at midday and flooded the Square Mile's wine bars.

The FT-SE index of the 100 top shares gained 136.2 points to close at 2,572.6, adding more than £20 billion to the value of the market. It was the biggest rise since shares bounced back after the October 1987 crash.

The pound gained two cents and 2½ pence as it soared against the dollar and the mark respectively to reach DM2.8995 and \$1.7645.

BT's partly paid shares, up 19p to 119½p, were the most keenly sought stock as trading volume reached 52 million shares. With nationalisation fears gone, the package of shares in the ten electricity distribution companies added £57 to £3,040. Water shares spurned 70p on average. VSEL leapt 40p to 370p with the lifting of Labour's defence cut threat. The one disappointment was the small fall in inflation announced yesterday, by 0.1 to 4 per cent. With the latest bout of mortgage rate cuts coming in, the City had expected the retail price index for March to register 3.8 per cent. The underlying rate, excluding mortgages and poll tax, rose 0.5 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

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Shares soar, page 41
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Sunny side of the street: John Major, back at No 10 and with Tory party chairman Chris Patten at his side, meets well-wishers and tourists in Downing Street on the morning after his famous victory

Beaten Kinnock will announce resignation

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL KINNOCK is to step down as Labour leader after failing in his second attempt to return the party to power.

He will announce his resignation on Monday after speaking to friends and colleagues in the party and trade union movement at the weekend. His decision will bring to an end an eight-and-a-half-year spell in the leadership that began after the party's disastrous election defeat in 1983.

Mr Kinnock has decided to clear the path for his successor as quickly as possible, and Labour will probably have a new leader within two months if, as is expected, he announces that a leadership election will take place as soon as a meeting of Labour's electoral college, made up of party members, MPs and the trade unions, can be arranged.

The favoured candidate to replace him will be John Smith, the shadow chancellor.

Mr Smith had a heart attack in 1988 but has fully recovered.

He endured a punishing

schedule during the campaign and is firmly ex-

pected to throw his hat into the ring.

Polls conducted during the election campaign

suggested that the party would have fared better had he been its leader.

Other leading mainstream contenders — Gordon Brown, the trade spokesman, and Tony Blair, employment — are unlikely to stand if Mr Smith is in the race. He could, however, face a challenge from the soft left, with Bryan Gould, environment, Robin Cook, health, and John Prescott, transport, the possible contenders.

Mr Kinnock has given himself two chances to topple the Conservatives. But, in spite of opinion-poll indications that he would at least end up as the leader of the largest party in a hung parliament, he managed to achieve only a substantial cut in the government's majority. As a result he has decided it is time to make way for someone else.

By going quickly he hopes to minimise the internal party discord that may accompany the leadership election and to give his successor the maximum time to prepare for Labour's next push for government. A key factor in any contest could be the candidates' attitude to proportional representation, an issue that is expected to be the subject of a prolonged party debate after a fourth successive defeat under the first-past-the-post system.

Mr Cook, who made a

strong call for Labour to commit itself to PR yesterday, would be seen as the electoral reform candidate if he stood.

Mr Smith has not firmly committed himself either way on PR.

Mr Kinnock was warmly praised, publicly and privately, by shadow cabinet colleagues yesterday for the way he had campaigned, and for the determination with which he had worked since 1983 to make Labour electable again, effectively bringing it back from oblivion. Publicly colleagues backed his continued leadership; privately they admitted that they expected him to resign with dignity.

One senior shadow minister said it was a "tragedy of politics" that Mr Kinnock, having done so much for his party, should himself have been a factor in its defeat. The Conservatives have made no secret of claims that tax and the "Kinnock question" were two of their strongest cards.

Mr Kinnock waged a successful battle against the hard left during much of his leadership. He vanquished the

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Smith tipped, page 2
Kinnock's worst day, page 2
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THE NOT THE TIMES

OLIVER'S TWISTS



In 1642, King Charles faced a bloody conflict that would divide his country for a decade. Today, we publish a 12-page supplement to commemorate that fateful year, while Saturday Review looks at the contradictory traits in Oliver Cromwell's character

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOPS



Ride a dinosaur, tickle a stingray, join the monkey walk: there are a hundred ways to enjoy Easter with the children in Weekend Times plus Jonathan Meades' worst-ever meal out and — for celebrating or drowning your sorrows — Jane MacQuitty's champagne tips

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



From Olympic contenders to wheelchair charioteers, from dedicated joggers to charity fund-raisers... 25,000 people will run, walk and tumble through the tortuous London Marathon tomorrow. Our guide to who, where and when to watch is on page 51

NOT SO BLEAK HOUSE?



Will the spring sun, a new government and a hint of cheaper mortgages bring buyers out into the streets and brighten the housing market? Weekend Money finds cheer for frustrated sellers but a cloud on the horizon for savers — on page 45

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Ivor Crewe, page 5
Bob Worcester,
election supplement, page IX

Country's voters let the pollsters down

BY MATTHEW PARRIS

HARK! Do you hear sounds in the electoral undergrowth? Do you hear the shuffle of feet? It is the pollsters running for cover. It is the pollsters backtracking, the commentators executing a series of neat little sideways steps.

Is that the wind that we hear in the trees, or the whispers of "surprise shift" and "sudden switch"? Is that flash of white in yonder bushes the boottail of a retreating rabbit or the socks of a retreating pundit? Is it the murmur of the brook, or the murmur of "margin of error, margin of error" that fill the air?

After three weeks of confident pronouncement, not unremunerated, from us media experts, a great humbug is suddenly upon us. All at once, it seems, we never did claim to know: we made our disclaimers clear at the

time — don't you remember? We saw through a glass only darkly — we always said so. We have been misrepresented. The election result was entirely consistent with our predictions: the problem is that you readers vulgarised and over-simplified our predictions. We have been cruelly misunderstood...

After yesterday's news, the careers of a hundred politicians may lie in ruins, but we commentators are getting out from under. Mr Kinnock may be losing his job, but — oh, my friends! — we are certainly not going to lose ours. We shall not be blaming ourselves that what we said did not square with what the voters did. It's the voters' fault. It's the politicians' fault. After all, we readers' fault!

The swing was a few points out from what the exit polls predicted: you say? Ah, but you forgot that opinion changes. It seems that voters

changed their opinions about how they had voted — after they had voted. And you forgot the margin of error. Plus or minus three or four points either way and — hey presto! — the pollsters were spot on.

What's that? I hear you protest? You say that if predictions of swing really offer only a 6 per cent band of possible outcomes, then why don't we present them like that? Have you considered what the result would look like? Think of the headlines: "Mori predicts a swing of between 2 per cent one way and 4 per cent the other"; "May or may not be a hung parliament — Gallup". Can you see news editors buying these? We'd soon be out of space.

Besides, what really blurs the clarity of our predictions is the infuriating habit voters have of changing their minds during the campaign. This is cheating. We offer you a snap-

Continued on page 20, col 6

Smith is favourite to succeed Kinnock as Labour leader

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the shadow chancellor, is the strong favourite to succeed Neil Kinnock as leader of the Labour party.

Mr Smith, aged 53, has been heir apparent for almost as long as Mr Kinnock has been leader and many in the party argued privately both before and after the election that under Mr Smith the party would have won. The Scotsman is admired for his intellect, quick wit, repartee and statesmanlike professionalism.

Coming from the moderate right of the party, Mr Smith was seen by many as a more convincing politician than Mr Kinnock to implement the policies enshrined in the 1992 manifesto. Mr Smith has been accused of having an inflated ego but he is

has made clear that he would not oppose Mr Smith. Mr Brown has strong backing within the party.

Surprisingly, he did not have a high profile campaign, although as shadow trade and industry secretary he joined Mr Kinnock in wooing businessmen at the first of Labour's "business brunches". Yet at a Glasgow rally where Mr Kinnock was speaking, Mr Brown made an impressive warm-up speech.

His dour, cautious public manner and rigid professionalism have earned him friends and enemies in the party. Although privately the Scot is good company and a great entertainer, he does not project the same image publicly.

Politically at the centre of the party, Mr Brown is one of the most highly regarded of the party's 1983 intake. From 1985 to 1987 he was spokesman on regional affairs and shipping, becoming shadow chief secretary of the treasury in 1987.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, is another strong contender from the younger generation. Mr Blair, aged 38, the youngest member of the shadow cabinet, had a good campaign. His boyish, handsome looks and soft-spoken manner were displayed regularly on television and on press conference platforms. Appearances alongside Mr Kinnock on several occasions during the campaign tour, he delivered a powerful warm-up speech at Mr Kinnock's final rally in his Iswyn constituency.

Mr Blair uses the confidence developed at public school and Oxford to drive home his political vision. A barrister by profession, he is quick to underline his "socialist" beliefs, stressing the need to combine individual freedom with community obligations. He rose from assistant shadow spokesman for Treasury affairs from 1984 to 1987 to shadow employment secretary.

If the party decided to skip a generation, Gordon Brown, aged 39, would be one of the top candidates. Although he

is QC, Mr Smith, educated at grammar school and Glasgow university, joined the Labour party in 1955, becoming energy under-secretary in 1974 and then minister two years later. From there he rose through the ranks of the privy council office, becoming shadow spokesman for trade and industry, trade prices, energy and trade and industry before being appointed shadow chancellor in 1987.

Other possible contenders include Robin Cook and Bry-



Smith: statesmanlike heir apparent

widely liked in the party. He has also been instrumental in building respect for the party in business and industrial circles.

A QC, Mr Smith, educated at grammar school and Glasgow university, joined the Labour party in 1955, becoming energy under-secretary in 1974 and then minister two years later. From there he rose through the ranks of the privy council office, becoming shadow spokesman for trade and industry, trade prices, energy and trade and industry before being appointed shadow chancellor in 1987.

If the party decided to skip a generation, Gordon Brown, aged 39, would be one of the top candidates. Although he

an Gould. Mr Cook, who had a high profile during the election campaign because of the focus on health, would be the only soft left candidate. He is regarded as a brilliant debater in the house.

Mr Cook's acerbic wit, intellect and talent as a strategist have won him admirers throughout the party, although he does not display the warmth and passion of a great communicator.

Bryan Gould is also among the top runners. The charming shadow environment secretary, on the party's centre right, soared to popularity among MPs after he ran Labour's much acclaimed 1987 campaign.

Mr Gould's main task during the last parliament was to draw up the Labour party's "Fair Rates" alternative to the poll tax and council tax. He upset Mr Kinnock two years ago by rebelling against him on the eve of the party conference over the crucial issue of defence spending.

It is clear that designer socialism packaged by the yuppie tendency in the Labour party is not a formula for success

WHAT THEY SAID

— Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South

I'm delighted to have my own mandate. I think it is very important. I can now accept that the country have elected me in my own right to be prime minister

— John Major

There is in Labour circles some pride that they have worked with Neil Kinnock as he rebuilt the party in a process that will continue under his leadership

— shadow trade & industry spokesman Gordon Brown

I believe our vote would have been very substantially higher had it not been for the fear, the concern that people had for the prospect of a Labour government

— Paddy Ashdown

I think Neil Kinnock will probably stand down quite soon. He has reached the summit of where he can take the British Labour party

— Glasgow Hillhead MP George Galloway

The whole party has moved too far to the right

— Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East

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Speech of triumph turns into epitaph

MICHAEL POWELL



Facing up to defeat: Neil and Glenys Kinnock arriving at the Labour party headquarters in Walworth Road yesterday morning

At the Kinnocks' home yesterday the blinds were drawn on private grief.

The dream is shattered but Neil Kinnock has been brave and dignified to the last, writes Alan Hamilton

er Labour can ever be an electable force again, either if it sticks with its new design socialism or returns to old leftist roots.

On Thursday evening, buoyed by the inner conviction that an overall majority of 20 seats was possible, he retreated with his close entourage to a discreet country hotel deep in his Iswyn constituency. It was there that the first small harbingers of doubt came to perch on his shoulder, as the television disclosed early exit polls showing surprising support for Mr Major. Yet all was far from lost, and among early results there were some highly encouraging swings in Mr Kinnock's favour, in spite of the early disappointment of failing to take Basildon.

The following 90 minutes brought a gathering sense of doom. Yet the growing possibility of failure must have seemed the greater for he was so unexpected. In many ways Mr Kinnock's confidence belied the scale of his task, for he still needed a bigger swing in his favour than that which brought Attlee his 1945 landslide.

By the time Mr Kinnock arrived for his own count at 1.20am, he had grown expressionless and impassive, ignoring the cameras. An increase of over 1,700 in his personal majority brought him no visible comfort.

He had prepared a speech of triumph but what he delivered had more of the flavour

than 200. It was a sad and flat end; he could not even find a working microphone to address the lingering faithful. He looked worn, disappointed and disillusioned, and his voice had lost almost all its confident timbre. But Mr Kinnock is a strong man, and he made a brief speech which in the circumstances was pointed, eloquent and courageous.

"I naturally feel a strong sense of disappointment, not so much for myself for I am fortunate, very fortunate, in my personal life. But I feel dismay, sorrow, for so many people in our country who do not share this personal good fortune and who, as a result of further years of Tory government, will experience further disadvantage. They deserve better than they got on April 9, 1992."

He turned and went in. The challenge, which he had been constructing with painstaking dedication, bravery and single-mindedness since 1983, had ultimately failed. It is hard to see what more he could have done; he is unlikely to know himself.

Yesterday, at the Kinnocks' home in Ealing, west London, the blinds were drawn on private grief as they used to be in the days of the first world war when a family had lost a son, although later in the day the couple emerged to hold a barbecue. Mr Kinnock's last public word before he retired to sleep had been in response to a question about his future. It would, he said, be long and wonderful. His admirers, of whom there are a great many, will wish it so, but it may not be at the despatch box, even on the left-hand side of the House.

Electoral reform

Decision beckons on PR option

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S leaders will debate whether to commit the party to reform of the voting system after its fourth consecutive election defeat.

Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, made an impassioned appeal for change yesterday. He said that after this election the first-past-the-post system would have given Britain nearly 20 years of majority Tory government.

"If we had electoral reform as a basis for last night's results, then the probability is that by tonight Britain would have had a Labour/Liberal coalition. That is not what we are fighting for; it's not wonderful. But it's very much better than five years majority Conservative government. Labour must commit itself to PR."

Some of his shadow cabinet colleagues disagreed. One questioned whether raising PR towards the end of the election had helped the campaign. Another said that to regard PR as a panacea that would suddenly put Labour in power was wrong. The priority must surely be to discover why Labour had not been trusted and to put it right. An internal debate about PR should not be allowed to get in the way of that.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade secretary, said: "We have made clear that there should be a debate about the principle of electoral reform.

representation. If Labour had won, it would have legislated for a form of PR for a Scottish parliament and a new strategic body for London. Labour's review, chaired by Professor Raymond Plant, of Southampton University, will continue its work and make recommendations on the most appropriate voting systems for elections to the Com-

mons, the European parliament, assemblies for Wales and the English regions, the replacement for the Lords, and local government.

At that point, the leadership will have to grasp the nettle. It is a gamble: PR might be Labour's only hope of returning to power, but the party would be unlikely to govern on its own again.



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High street confidence

Traders hope end to uncertainty will bring spending spree

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was last night opening its wallet in readiness for a post-election spending boom as confidence flooded back to the High Street.

Travel agents, stores, car salesrooms, hotels and retail outlets of all kinds were expecting brisk trade as shoppers revived spending plans shelved during the run up to the election.

Telephone enquiries to travel agents increased sharply yesterday afternoon and, with good weather predicted for most of the country today, extra staff were being brought in by many shops to cope with an expected rise in demand.

"During the run up to the

Whitty is questioned after crash

Larry Whitty, the Labour party general secretary, was questioned yesterday in connection with an alleged assault on a police officer after an election night road crash.

Mr Whitty's car was involved in a accident with a police vehicle in Kennington, south London, soon after 4am yesterday. He was taken to Bow Street police station for questioning but later released on bail.

Souness's joy at victory

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager who is recovering in hospital after heart surgery, telephoned John Major to congratulate him on the Tory victory. Mr Major was asleep and an aide took the message.

Gerry Ritchie, a friend, said of Souness: "He is looking very fit and chirpy." The football manager had a heart triple bypass operation four days ago.

Scots claim

A group of Scots wanting constitutional reform set out from Inverness yesterday to walk the 160 miles to Edinburgh. They plan to meet at the building once set aside for a Scottish parliament.

Gamble fails

Sheffield council, which set a budget £10 million higher than its treasurer advised in the belief that Labour would win the election, is faced with the task of making severe cuts in the wake of the Tory victory.

Garden meal

The Kinnock family had a barbecue of burgers, chicken and sausages with friends in the garden of their west London home yesterday evening after spending much of the day in seclusion.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Bodyfit — your total training programme

Josh was entirely responsible for getting me into good shape for A Fish Called Wanda. Training with him is always fun, even when it isn't... So says John Cleese, who along with the

Duchess of York, benefited from the expertise of the world's top personal trainer, Josh Salzmann. For three weeks in The Sunday Times Josh will do the same for you. Bodyfit starts tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Magazine

election, holiday bookings dropped sharply," the Association of British Travel Agents said. "Now the uncertainty is over we can expect a return to stability and fully expect a very busy weekend as many people book for last minute Easter holidays and for summer packages."

In an effort to stimulate further the surge in demand, Thomson Holidays is cutting the price of 80,000 holidays by an average of £40 and British Airways Holidays is reducing the cost of two weeks to Kenya by £100 and its city breaks by £40.

P&O said that cruise bookings had slumped over recent weeks as potential customers held back for fear that they could have been badly affected under Labour's tax proposals. "Already we have had many more telephone enquiries and expect to turn these into bookings," P&O said.

Peter Rothwell, marketing director of Lunn Poly, also reported many more enquiries, especially for long haul holidays to Florida and the Caribbean.

British resorts were confident of increased custom, and hoteliers, many of whom have struggled to fill half their rooms, predicted an immediate improvement.

Retailers, although confident, were slightly less euphoric than the travel trade. "I don't think there will be an actual boom," Stanley Kalms, chairman of the Dixons Group, said. "We are quite sure, however, that the recession is now ending and that we will be out of it by the end of the year."

Although early morning trade was quiet, possibly because customers were

Estate agents cheer

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE estate agents began telephoning yesterday morning after a night of euphoria, ringing their clients with the news of the Tory victory and the message "buy now".

Robin Paterson of Barnard Marcus said: "This is great news for the property market." Geoffrey van Cusen of Savills exclaimed: "Three heavy cheers for John Major!" Stewart Baseley of Charles Church Homes said: "Exactly the tonic the housebuilding market needs to lead the country out of recession."

For once, estate agency optimism was matched by the more sober conclusions of City property analysts. House prices could rise by about 5 per cent over the second half

of the year in the wake of the election victory. John Wriggworth, housing analyst from UBS Phillips & Drew, famed for his usually pessimistic predictions, said:

"The weight of political uncertainty has lifted," Mr Wriggworth said. "He predicted that there would be more sales but said that prices would continue to fall by about 3 per cent until June, when prices would begin to pick up. "The falls won't abruptly stop but will slow. Then they will rise by about 1 per cent a month till the end of the year, leading to a 5 per cent rise by the end of the year, when prices will return to their levels at the start of the year." Prices in 1993 will rise by 6 per cent, he said.

Dozens more spilled onto the grass at Finsbury Circus Gardens in a wave of pinstriped suits and neatly pressed blouses. Many clinked glasses of champagne from the nearby Pavilion, a renowned City watering hole that had one of its busiest days for years.

Some won, some lost in campaign

Chris Patten
Jennifer's mother (Mrs Bennett) votes ToryThe Central Office fax machine
Youth over experience
Share values

The secret of the ballot box

Seb Coe
Glenda Jackson
Mrs Thatcher
ITN
David Owen (he finally backed a winner)Soapbox makers
The counting agents at SunderlandSouth
Timothy and
Amanda in Central
OfficeTorbay (Best
backdrop to returning officer)Pink, as worn by Norma Major
Journalists assigned to Central Office (the
party went on until dawn)David Mellor's grin
Welsh nationalismEssex man
Sports halls and leisure centres

(unprecedented use of)

Sids James (Tory supporter, according to *The
Sun's* medium)

Road (the party never happened)

The three-party system

Gerry Adams
Rosie BarnesJohn Cartwright
Oratorical skills

Sects

Rory Bremner's impersonation of John Cole

Tax inspectors

Paul Boateng "We're a happy party tonight"

Untactical voting

Elton: no joke

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Campaign hits and misses

Over-the-top rally left Kinnock exposed

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

IN THE end it was the triumph of guts over glitz. John Major's success in winning an election most of those about him had given up for lost probably owes more to psychology than psephology. And if there was a key moment, some of his ministers believe that it came with Labour's over-the-top rally in Sheffield on what came to be known as Red Wednesday.

Labour's senior figures were convinced that they were on their way to government. They allowed the whole affair to reek with an air of triumphalism. The effect was compounded by the fact that a Mori poll in *The Times* that morning had given Labour a seven-point lead and the City markets had picked up their skirts and run.

Suddenly the electorate began to take seriously the prospect of a Labour government. That element of Neil Kinnock's personality which has always grated with floating voters was emphasised and those who had something to lose under a Labour government began to think twice about continuing to punish the Tories for their errors over the poll tax and their management of the economy. The Conservatives had their chance and used it.

The history of the Conservative campaign, which was subjected to great criticism, is now being rewritten in the light of the 21-seat Tory majority. Mr Major and Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, knew that they faced a daunting task. They were trying in a sophisticated democracy to arrest the natural swing of the pendulum, against the background of a recession which had hit hardest many of the people the Tories liked to call their own. Mr Patten and the Tory admiring were eventually proved right in believing that the strongest line of all for them was the oft-repeated slogan "You can't trust Labour".

The Tory leadership decided to run several risks. First was a largely negative campaign based on highlighting the fears about Labour's likely tax burden and on contrasting the experience and ap-

proach of Mr Major and Mr Kinnock, an already proven election fighter.

Secondly, against the background of a stack of opinion polls suggesting that a hung parliament was likely, the prime minister decided on an all or nothing strategy. He insisted on every opportunity that he would do no deals and would not contemplate proportional representation.

Thirdly, despite the urgings of many within his own party that it was time for a concession to the rising tide for Scottish devolution, he and his advisers took the view that there was nothing for the Tories in being the fourth best devolution party. Instead

Then the two major parties blew the health issue over "Jennifer's ear". Labour revealed a class split and the Tories were caught out feeding material to the tabloid press. Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats stayed out of the whole affair and won brown points from a disgruntled public.

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Verdict on forecasts

Voters made fools of pollsters and pundits

BY IVOR CREWE

THE election made fools of the polls, and the pundits and politicians who depend on them. Four forecast polls were published on election day. NOP and Mori put Labour slightly ahead, by 3 and 1 points respectively; ICM placed them level-pegsing, and only Gallup reported the Conservatives ahead, but by a half point. In reality the Conservative lead was 5 points.

The average of the four polls was Conservative 38, Labour 39, Liberal Democrats 19; in the event, the result was Conservative 42, Labour 36, Lib Dems 18.

Separate polls in Scotland fared equally badly. The two polls conducted closest to the election — System 3 for *The Herald* and ICM for *The Scotsman* — averaged out at Conservative 22, Labour 41, Lib Dem 12, SNP 25. The actual vote was Conservative 26, Labour 39, Lib Dem 13, SNP 21. Just as in Britain as a whole, there was a 3 per cent swing from Labour to Conservative between the final polls and the real result.

The polling business was saved by the Harris exit poll for ITN which put the parties on Conservatives 41, Labour 37, Lib Dems 18. But this poll's accuracy went largely unnoticed because ITN's seats forecast of Conservative 305, Labour 294 proved incorrect. Had ITN relied on the national uniform swing assumption, it would have forecast a Conservative overall majority of 16 (334 seats to Labour's 267) and would have been almost spot on. By assuming variations of swing across regions and between safe versus marginal seats it underestimated the scale of the Conservative victory.

BBC television commissioned an exit poll of marginal seats and did not announce a national share of the vote. But it said that the national swing was between 5 and 6 per cent when in fact it was between 2 and 3 per cent. An ICM exit poll for *Today* was even wider of the mark, giving

plus/minus 3 per cent margin of error for each party, the chances of four polls being out by that much for both the Conservative and Labour parties is about 160,000-1.

Now was sample size the problem. The size of the forecast polls was double the normal and the same as that for previous elections, when forecasts have been accurate. The misleading BBC exit poll had a sample size of 14,000.

There was evidently a very late but significant swing to the Conservatives. Some of this surge came from the unusually large proportion of "don't knows" (which the pollsters had noted in the media) but some must have come from wavering Liberal Democrats and Labour supporters. The polls asked the undecided and the wavering which party they leaned towards but got misleading an-

swers suggesting that the Liberal Democrats would be the main beneficiaries of any last-minute switching. One urgent area of investigation for the pollsters will be the measurement of indecision and of potential support for other parties.

Some pollsters have claimed that the tax issue, or the parties' general economic performance or Neil Kinnock's qualification to be prime minister swayed voters at the last minute. But the polls recorded a small and narrowing gap between the Conservative and Labour parties on all three items.

The pollsters cannot pin the blame on margin of error.

While it is true that each forecast poll was subject to a

**Ivor Crewe
says the
pollsters have
to think
again**

Another difficulty for the poll is that forecasting can be a self-denying prophecy. The Conservatives began to recover immediately after Black Wednesday's poll, which pointed to an overall Labour majority. This may have frightened wavering back into the Tory fold. Thereafter poll after poll pointed to a hung parliament. Independent polling evidence suggests that voters decided in increasing numbers over the last week that they preferred a decisive result.

The final puzzle is that, whatever its cause, the late swing should of been picked up by the election day exit polls, yet of the three only the Harris/ITN poll got the result right.

Exit polling faces two problems. One is how to ensure a representative sample of polling stations when there is little independent data about the composition of polling districts. The other is how to deal with those who refuse to say how they voted. They are concentrated among the elderly and women, who tend to be Conservative, but it is tricky to know how far to adjust for that. The pollsters will have to think about such problems.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex

**Bob Worcester,
election supplement, page IX**

BBC wins ratings war but ITN first on results

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional winner of the election night television ratings battle has again proved to be the loser in the race to report the results. The BBC attracted millions more viewers than Independent Television News but those who stayed to ITN were told most voting figures first.

From the moment that the BBC's Kate Adie was left giggling in Torbay as ITN broadcast the only live pictures of the first result from Sunderland South, ITN was relentless, reporting 80 per cent of the results before the BBC.

Not only was ITN first to forecast an overall majority for the Conservatives early yesterday but it beat the BBC by 30 minutes to confirm its forecast before noon yesterday.

ITN reported that the Tories had secured the magic number of 326 seats at 11.56am but the BBC felt unable to report the news until 12.26pm. By the time 621 seats were declared just after 4am, ITN had been first with 494 results and the BBC with 127.

But the BBC, whose spectacular set with neon swingometer and huge screens far outshone the small ITN studio from which Jon Snow and Alastair Stewart relayed the results, boasted that it had not broadcast "a single false result". ITN gave three incorrect results, in North Devon, Medway and Newham North West.

ITN announced results in 12 constituencies hours before the counting had stopped, and in Wolverhampton before all the ballot boxes had been opened. Most embarrassingly, ITN reported that Tony Banks, the Labour MP, had lost his Newham seat when he had retained it with a 10,000 majority. Tony Hall, director



Anchor man: David Dimbleby, who headed the BBC's team of pundits

of BBC news and current affairs, said: "The BBC could not afford to make the mistakes ITN has made. Our forecasts and our reporting moved more slowly because it was important that we got it right. And we did."

David Mannion, editor of ITN bulletins on ITV, said: "These were minuscule errors brought about by someone pushing the wrong button. The BBC's errors

were far more significant: no outside broadcasting unit at Sunderland and a failure to realise the significance of the Basildon result. That was the moment signs of relief could be heard in Central Office. We recognised it and changed our forecasts."

BBC pundits were criticised for remaining too loyal to the NOP exit poll when forecasting the likely outcome as the night wore on. John Cole, the political edi-

tor, seemed unable to believe a Tory majority was possible until it had happened. But Mr Hall insisted that the pundits around David Dimbleby's table "subtly steered viewers clearly towards the result through the night".

The BBC's £20,000 light swingometer was put to little use. The swings to Labour were so small and so erratic that Peter Snow was forced to use more conventional graphics.

Exit polls lead TV down false trail

BY MARY ANN SIEGHART

AFTER the BBC's exit poll in 1987 wildly underestimated the Conservative share of the vote, the corporation swore that such a mistake would never happen again.

The BBC conducted one of the biggest post-mortems in its history and the 1992 poll was designed to avoid the mistakes of its predecessor. Yet still, at 10pm on Thursday night, the BBC was predicting that the Tories would be 25 seats short of a parliamentary majority. The Conservatives ended with a majority of 21. Harris's poll for ITN projected the Tories 21 seats short.

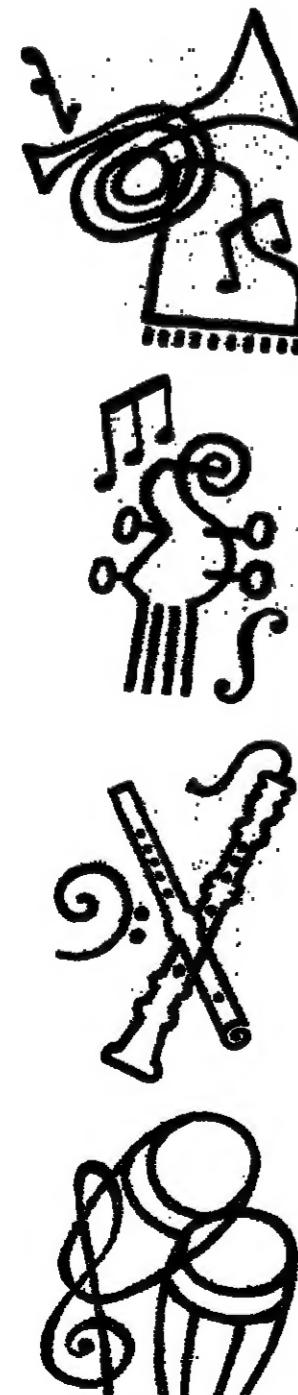
The exit poll errors explain why both TV stations, for the first hour or two, continued to predict a hung parliament, despite the evidence of the votes coming in. Most of the early results showed a much smaller swing to Labour than the exit polls suggested. A Tory majority, but the effect of the exit polls acted as a drag on the computer predictions.

Why did not the TV pundits look at the results coming in from the constituencies and realise that their own polls might have been wrong? Were they simply too timid?

The opinion polls published by newspapers on polling day seemed to vindicate the television findings. The early results did have a few wild variations in the amounts of swing. When the Conservatives held Basildon, a marginal that Labour should have won, warning bells should have rung. Yet Pendle, at roughly the same time, showed a swing to Labour of 4.5 per cent, closer to the BBC's prediction of a 6 per cent swing and enough if repeated nationally to deprive the Tories of their majority.

But most important, both stations had made a large financial and thus psychological commitment to their polls.

ITN, for instance, spent more than £100,000 and employed about 1,000 people.



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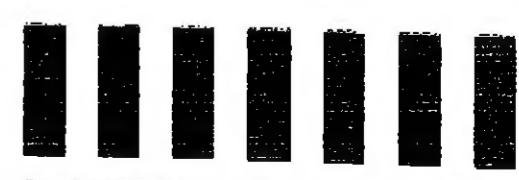
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Scottish backlash

MP demands action to disrupt Commons

By KERRY GRILL

LABOUR'S frustration at failing to win power at Westminster last night boiled over in Scotland with calls from prominent party members and MPs for civil disobedience and deals with the Scottish National Party to form an anti-Tory coalition.

George Galloway, MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, spoke of "superdoomsday" with squabbling between opposition parties allowing the Tories to improve in spite of a lack of popular support. "The Tories and their friends are laughing all the way to the bank at the disunity in Scotland," he said. "We must extend the hand of friendship to the SNP. We must unite the anti-Conservative forces in Scotland."

"Three out of four Scots have rejected the Tories again. We need a patriotic front of all the parties who are against them. If we mobilise we can disrupt Parliament."

A resurgence of Scottish Labour Action, the pro-nationalist pressure group that opposed the poll tax, is expected. John McAllion, MP for Dundee East, said that playing by Westminster rules was no longer an option for Labour in Scotland, which had been left powerless yet holding 49 seats compared with the Tories 11.

Mr McAllion said that the Scottish Constitutional Convention, first convened three years ago to discuss a devolu-

tion package but boycotted by the SNP, should be used as the vehicle to unite all opposition parties demanding constitutional change.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, said he hoped that the nationalists would join in the convention. "If the SNP is serious about wanting to work with Scotland then they will compromise," he said.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "The Labour party have conned the Scottish people for the fourth time in a row. They promised they would deliver a Scottish parliament in a tick. That is now exposed as a fraudulent prospectus. Instead they have delivered Scotland into the hands of a fourth English Tory government."

Yesterday, the Scottish Tories were describing their 11 seats as a victory, although five years ago they conceded that their achievement of ten seats was a disaster. For Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, a meagre success was enough. He had spent four weeks contemplating the most ignominious defeat for his party in Scotland.

Mr Lang, who held his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale seat against the odds, said that the Tories had profited from their concentration on the perils of constitutional change, whether devolution or independence. A quarter of Scots who voted had done

Northern Ireland

Tactical voting by Protestants helps oust Adams

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE cause of militant republicanism has suffered a big setback with the defeat of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president in West Belfast.

The seat was taken at the third attempt by Joe Hendron, of the SDLP, who said that his victory represented a rejection of the violence of the paramilitary groups. "We will

not put guns in their hands," Dr Hendron said during his victory speech at Belfast city hall. "We will not encourage them to join paramilitary organisations like UVF, UDA and Provisional IRA. I want to work for peace, my party wants to work for peace and I acknowledge all of those magnificent people of West Belfast of both communities who have supported me..."

Dr Hendron managed to overturn Mr Adams's 2,221 majority by increasing his own vote by nearly 3,000, achieving a majority of just 589 votes. It was clear that the decisive factor was unexpected tactical voting by members of the minority Protestant community on Shankill Road who opted for Dr Hendron to help to remove Mr Adams. Fred Cobain, their own Unionist candidate, a former Belfast lord mayor, polled almost exactly 3,000 fewer than his predecessor in 1987.

The fact that Dr Hendron was able to bring out the Protestant vote undercuts to some extent the long-term significance of Mr Adams's defeat. As Sinn Fein argued yesterday, there seemed little evidence that republican voters had turned away from Sinn Fein, an eventuality that would have been a far more damaging commentary on their recent record and indeed their future prospects, than the decision by some Protestants to vote tactically against them. Mr Adams's vote, at 16,826, dropped by only 36, allowing the party to say that it retained a clear majority for its pro-IRA position among the constituency's overwhelmingly Roman Catholic community.

Notwithstanding the details, however, even Sinn Fein was prepared to admit that the defeat will hurt it on the international stage, in terms of party morale and in its ability to pursue a parallel political track to the IRA campaign.

Richard McCauley, the party's main spokesman in Northern Ireland, summed it up: "It would be foolish to say this is not a blow — of course it is. I don't think it is possible at this stage to estimate the likely long-term damage. My own view is that it will turn out not to be the damaging or disastrous blow that some sections of the media and the British government would like, simply because we know the Sinn Fein vote in West Belfast is in a position of absolute supremacy over the SDLP."

He added that Dr Hendron had merely "borrowed" the seat for a while

Bookies give odds on future

By LOUISE HIDALGO

BOOKMAKERS opened accounts yesterday on the outcome of the next election, undeterred by the losses some recorded after a last-minute surge in polling day betting had brought the Conservatives' odds on winning the election tumbling to 6-5.

Punters across the country were tallying their gains and losses after one of the most feverish finishes in political betting history. A record £250,000 was taken in 12 hours.

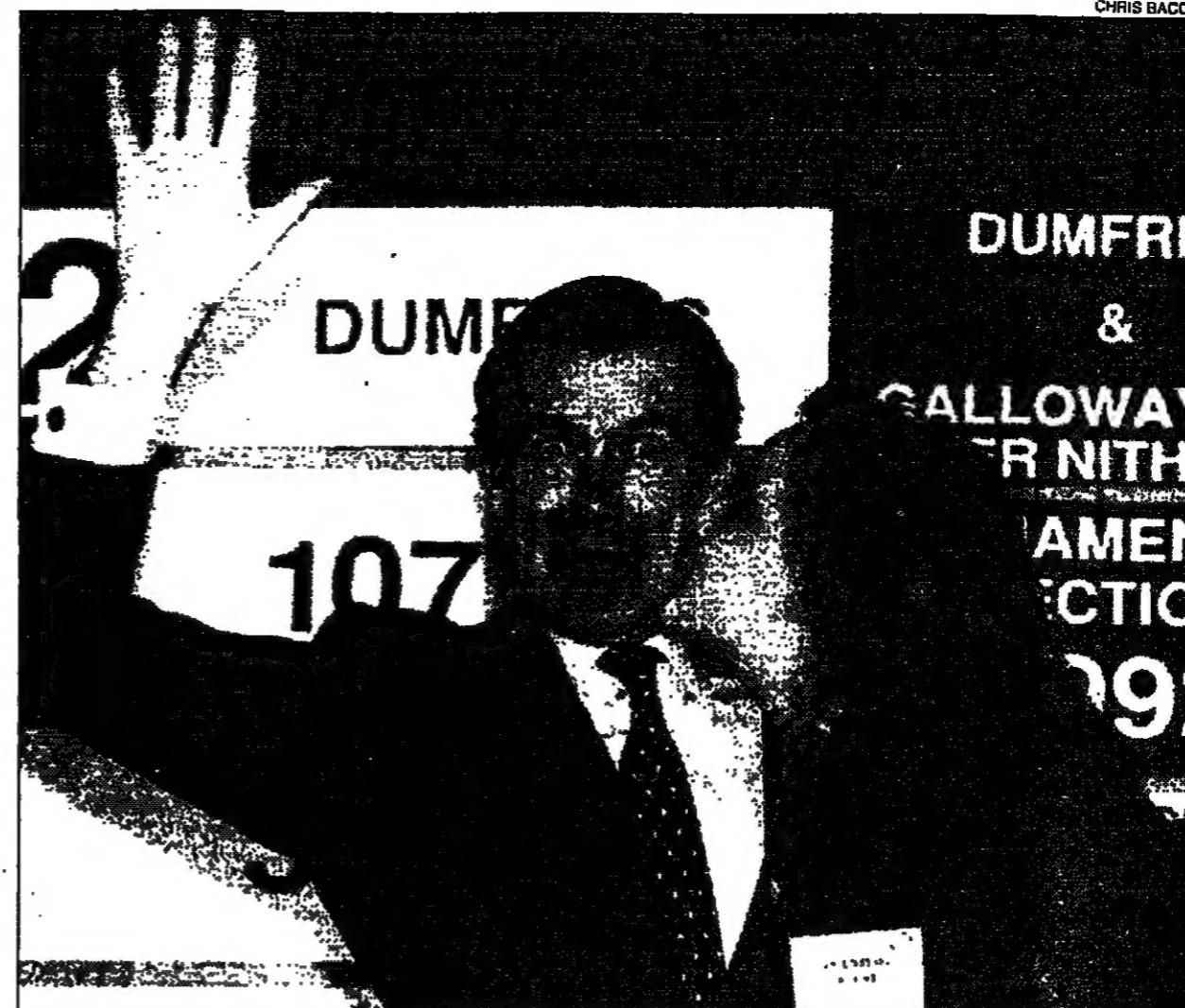
In Brighton, a restauranteur faced a loss of £18,000, wagered on a Labour win, while a man from London was celebrating the largest recorded win, of £75,000, after placing £20,000 on the Conservatives to gain an overall majority at odds of 11-4 against. Graham Sharpe of William Hill said: "If there is a lesson to learn from this election, it is not to pay too much attention to the opinion polls when placing bets."

Sunderland South overcame odds of 50-1 to emerge as champion of the constituency race to announce the first results, ousting the three-time holder of the title, Torbay. Only one £1 bet had been placed on the winner.

John Major's tenure at Number 10 looked doubly secure as William Hill announced even money on his remaining there until the turn of the century.

The favourite to lead the Labour party into the next electoral battle was John Smith, the shadow chancellor. The odds on Neil Kinnock's fighting his third election as leader were 3-1.

The craziest bet, bookmakers said, was the £1,000 placed by a punter in Southend on Glenda Jackson, the odds-on favourite to take the London seat of Hampstead and Highgate. His winnings were £525.



Sealed with a kiss: Ian Lang, Scottish secretary and winner in his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency, being congratulated by his daughter Venetia as the result was announced yesterday

All Greens lose their deposits

By MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE election was calamitous for the Green party, which saw its share of the vote drop to 1.3 per cent, lower than in 1987 when environmental concern had not become established as a mainstream political issue.

The £450,000 the party spent on promoting 254 candidates proved futile: all lost their deposits. The Greens' highest poll was 2,005 for Sue Atkinson in Stroud, Gloucestershire, their local government stronghold, and their largest percentage was 3.75 for Chris Atkinson in Islington North, London.

The party's 15 per cent share of the vote in the 1989 European elections now seems to have been very much a fluke. It appears to be marginalised beyond recovery. The party was squeezed by two factors: tactical voting for and against the government, and the disappearance of the environment as an issue on the doorstep. "We are very disappointed," Sara Parkin, chairman of the party's executive, said last night.

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BRITISH AIRWAYS
HOLIDAYS



Among the new intake striving to bring balance to parliament: Liz Lynne (Liberal Democrat), Judith Chaplin (Conservative), Anne Campbell (Labour) and Bridget Prentice (Labour)

Far outweighed, but ...

More women than ever in Commons

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THERE will be more women at Westminster than ever before when the House of Commons returns this month. They will total 59, 16 more than at the end of the last parliament. There will be at least one woman in John Major's new cabinet.

Parliament will contain 36 women Labour MPs, 20 Tories, two Liberal Democrats, and Margaret Ewing as parliamentary leader of the SNP.

But the House is still a long way from being representative. Despite John Major's endorsement of Opportunity 2000, the initiative to give women a higher profile in parliament and the professions, only six female candidates were chosen to contest the 56 safe seats vacated by retiring Tory MPs. All six had comfortable majorities.

Judith Chaplin, who has already climbed the political ladder, took over from Sir Michael McNair-Wilson in Newbury with a majority of

over 12,000. Mrs Chaplin is tipped to become the first female Chancellor, and was special adviser to both Nigel Lawson and John Major at the Treasury. She went on to advise Mr Major at No 10 and he is known to think highly of her.

The Liberal Democrats had most women candidates: Liz Lynne takes over from Sir Cyril Smith in Rochdale. An actress and speech consultant who has been known to give Paddy Ashdown last-minute advice on technique, she has had a part in *The Mousetrap* and appeared in BBC television play.

She will be joined by Glenda Jackson, an actress whose name always ensured a high-profile campaign. Thirty years into her career, the daughter of a Birkenhead bricklayer has now landed a part at Westminster. Her victory for Labour in Hammersmith and Bridget Prentice, who gained Penge and Lewisham East respectively for Labour.

comer is Anne Campbell, a statistician at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, who won Tory Cambridge for Labour with a majority of 580.

Front runners for a cabinet post include the Treasury minister, Gillian Shepherd (Norfolk SW), the health minister, Virginia Bottomley (Surrey SW), and the Home Office minister, Angela Rumbold, who held Mitcham and Morden.

The chances of Dame Janet Fookes becoming the first woman Speaker may have been set back by the big swing to Labour in Plymouth Drake. Parties have traditionally avoided Speakers representing marginal seats.

Two Tory husband and wife teams, Peter and Virginia Bottomley and Nicholas and Ann Winterton, have been joined by Gordon and Bridget Prentice, who gained Penge and Lewisham East respectively for Labour.

Defeated politicians are in a delicate condition and will be for months to come. Rejection is a cruel experience. (Those who have been unwillingly divorced will tell you it is worse than the death of the loved one.)

With the next election five years away, a whole generation of decent and clever men and women wake to the stark reality of devoting nearly two decades of their lifetime to the frustrations of the party in opposition.

For those of a certain age, there will be no more opportunity after the one they have just missed. True, once you are on the topmost rung in politics you can go on and on (though not evermore as the redoubtable Margaret Thatcher discovered). But it is a different story when you are out of government and must make a fresh launch from the ground. Then the tick tock of the clock has a

The defeated wake to discover they are drained of energy — which means they are severely depressed physically, mentally, emotionally. During the drawn-out campaign, politicians were charging around endlessly.

One moment assisted by an army of civil servants. Next moment nothing. Susan Crosland on a sudden trauma.

working hours which would land most of us in hospital. Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, frantically trying to hold his marginal seat, was said to be getting only three hours' sleep a night. This is only possible when nature's magic hormone surges during the other 21 hours.

For today's winners the adrenaline will keep surging, positively whizzing about when they return to Westminster and ministerial office. Whether this hyperactive excitability, like children at a birthday party, is suited to making instant long-term decisions is another story. My point is they feel great. The losers feel dreadful in every possible way.

I married Tony Crosland a few months before Labour came into government in 1964. He had been foreign secretary for just ten months when a cerebral haemorrhage killed him in 1977. During those 13 years, my only experience of electoral

defeat was when Ted Heath and the Tories again expected, won in 1970. So I can speak only for the fall from office, not for the failure to attain it in the first place.

In Grimsby town hall that night, while the Labour candidate's vote piled up, the word spread that in the rest of the country the Tories were pulling ahead. After Tony's victory speech of thanks to his supporters, we went back with friends to watch the other results come in on the television screen, and after a while I went over and sat on the arm of his chair as, mesmerised, he watched the evidence that Labour was out. When the alarm went off in our bedroom a few hours later, he remained dead asleep. I looked at him lying face down, one arm

Because he was stoical and (mostly) good-humoured, I did not fully grasp what a hell of an adjustment he had to make. One moment assisted by an army of civil servants (and do not underestimate the practical and psychological importance of the car and driver), the next moment nothing. When I bumped into a psychiatrist friend after Labour's defeat, he asked: "How's Tony taking it?" "He's begun a new book on socialism today. He's fine," I said cheerfully. The man looked at me with puzzlement: "I don't think you realise," he said, "how long internal suffering continues after that kind of unexpected defeat. It's like a sudden bereavement."

A few of the defeated are the exception to the above. They are the Labour MPs now preparing for the end of Neil Kinnock's leadership. Labour does these things with a dignity brutally denied Margaret Thatcher. None the less, when those Labour MPs who could be the new leader or one of his lieutenants saw their party failing in the voting booth, the magic hormone surged afresh for the leadership struggle ahead. They alone among the defeated are not drained of energy today.

Norma gets back to the ironing

BY LIN JENKINS

WITH a glass of champagne in her hand, Norma Major toasted her husband's victory and the success of her own small wager on the election outcome.

Choosing to leave her husband to the euphoria in London and the task of preparing for government, she took his place in the constituency and joined celebrations at the Huntingdon Conservative headquarters. Reassuring her son James, aged 17, that he would not get into trouble for joining her in a glass since the party was private, she spoke of her enjoyment of the hectic weeks of campaigning and the yearning now to return to the mundane demands of running the family home.

She said: "I am going to do the shopping, washing and ironing — all the naff things that need to be done. I need to get my life sorted out a bit. Things have just got a bit out of hand in the last three weeks — well not just the last three weeks, the last 16 months really."

With the uncertainty over and the future at Number 10 assured, Mrs Major felt sure that their family life would settle into a routine. "I think it will be a bit easier now. We can really settle in. It's not going to change the way we live. We will still be coming home here. This is still our home."

Mrs Major said that she had never doubted that her husband would return to power and disclosed that she had put a bet on a Tory victory. She declined to reveal the size of the stake.

The weeks in the limelight at her husband's side had been stimulating, but the high profile of a party leader's wife was not a role she relished, nor intended to embrace fully. "I'm pretty tired," she admitted as the photographers gathered to record her watching the final results trickling through on the television. "I thought I'd finished with photo calls. I think we deserve a break from it — if not deserve, we need one."

Mrs Major's decision to return with James and their daughter Elizabeth, aged 20, to their home in Great Stukeley reflects her wish to keep in the background. "I've come home today. There is nothing I can usefully do in London. I don't think John will come home tonight, but I don't know, to be honest," she said.

The lack of sleep was weighing on her after all the excitement. "It was quite weird walking into central office at five in the morning with bright lights everywhere and so many people, but it's been wonderful."

Her ambition yesterday was to have an early night.

Foreign reaction

Kohl leads the way in congratulating Major

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CONSERVATIVE politicians in Europe wasted no time yesterday in welcoming John Major's victory in the hope that his success might be repeated back home.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor who is still reeling from regional election setbacks, sent a particularly warm telegram addressed to "Dear John". Referring to the prime minister with the familiar "du" form, normally reserved for close friends, Herr Kohl drew comfort from the fact that "the British people have entrusted you and your party with a further five years of leadership at a time of so many uncertainties on the international level and in the face of the challenges of the world economy."

Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris and leader of the conservative Rally for the Republic party, who is usually

enthused in his support for the Tories, failed to release a statement.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president who is not normally noted for his warmth to Conservatives, sent Mr Major a congratulatory telegram.

Chaim Herzog, the Israeli prime minister, was gleeful about the Tories' victory. He said: "The failure for Labour confirms the picture of a deepening crisis for the social democrats and socialists in Western Europe which we have also seen in the recent weeks' elections in France

quiet relief at the Conservative victory. One executive from a trading company with considerable interests in the United Kingdom said: "We never knew very much about Mr Kinnock, you see, but I suppose now we can be sure that economic policies are unlikely to change." Japan's enduring love affair with Mrs Thatcher has bred a fondness for the Conservative party.

Mr Major's victory is likely to be broadly welcomed in the Middle East, where he is best remembered for sending British troops into action to liberate Kuwait last year. His success will come as a reassurance to Britain's traditional allies in the region, in particular the Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

In its best traditions of adhesion to the truth, Iraq gloated at Mr Major's "downfall" yesterday. "The Conservatives' defeat has been confirmed and John Major will have to relinquish the premiership to his opponent Neil Kinnock," Iraq's defence newspaper, *al-Qudsiyah*, declared.

The Japanese were not overly concerned about the outcome, having decided that neither party would be able to do much to make dramatic economic policy changes. But Japanese financiers and businessmen yesterday expressed

the name and let the Series 3 make the cat.

Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, was gleeful about the Tories' victory. He said: "The failure for Labour confirms the picture of a deepening crisis for the social democrats and socialists in Western Europe which we have also seen in the recent weeks' elections in France

and Germany."

The warmth of the message, which finished with good wishes for "your dear wife", contrasted starkly with the polite but more formal messages which the chancellor used to send Mrs Thatcher when she was prime minister.

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President Bush hailed his friend John Major's general election victory as "substantial" and "wonderful" as a general relief pervaded

Official said they were pleased not only that the administration's relationship with British Conservative governments over the past 11 years would continue, but that a political precedent had not been set for November's

presidential election. "There's a general sense that the Anglo-Saxon democracies tend to track each other," a senior member of the Bush-Quayle re-election campaign said. A right-wing British government had staved off a challenge from the left. "This is a good omen."

Aides to Bill Clinton, front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, had hoped for a symbolic meeting between their candidate and a newly installed

Neil Kinnock in Downing Street this summer.

Mr Bush worked closely with Mr Major during the Gulf war and its aftermath.

"Labour's position had evolved in recent years, and it was not quite as frightening as it would have been a few years ago," said one. "However, clearly we are most comfortable with the Conservatives, whose positions on many things are better known to us and more in line with what the US administration has espoused."

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Bush welcomes 'wonderful' Tory victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

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Rapist trapped by kitchen footprint jailed for 14 years

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A RAPIST wearing only goalkeeper's gloves who was trapped by a bare footprint he left on the tiled kitchen floor of his victim's house was jailed for 14 years yesterday.

Stephen Tomkinson, aged 32, was appearing for sentence at Bristol crown court after being convicted two weeks ago on two counts of raping a businesswoman. He was trapped by forensic experts after at first denying entering the house.

Mr Justice French, who said the sentence was the least he could impose, told Tomkinson that he not only violated his victim but also the safety of her home where he lay in wait in her bedroom. He also used the "distasteful" defence that she had consented to his advances.

The case had been adjourned for psychiatric reports. Tomkinson, a former amateur goalkeeper, had been living in a secure unit at Broadmoor hospital, Berkshire, since last December. Michael Hubbard, for his defence, had said last month

that reports indicated that his client was a danger to himself and others.

Yesterday, Mr Hubbard said there were few things to say in mitigation. But no weapon was involved and the victim was not subjected to further sexual indignity after the rapes. Tomkinson, he added, was not a candidate for a hospital order. His nine previous convictions did not include rape or serious assault.

Tomkinson, a van driver and divorced father of four children, from Bishopston, Bristol, had tracked his victim and twice indecently exposed himself to her near her home in the months before the rape. The married woman, aged 46, who now lives in London, was confronted in her bedroom. Tomkinson twisted her bathrobe cord around her neck.

Police asked a Cotswood painter, who has not been named, for his help and the victim co-operated in providing details for the artist whose drawing of the attacker provided a likeness that detectives were later to describe as "amazing".

A week later a man noticed Tomkinson acting suspiciously near two women on the Downs, Bristol, and recognised him from the artist's impression.

Tomkinson was taken to a police station where he agreed to give an inked impression of his left foot and was released. But he was arrested days later when experts found it a perfect match for the bare left footprint found in the kitchen.



Tomkinson: hid in his victim's bedroom

Drivers kill 1m animals a year

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a million wild animals and birds are probably killed annually in road accidents, a toll that is likely to rise as traffic becomes heavier and faster, according to the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

The trust's estimate, thought to be the first of its kind, is based on a five-year study by a trust member, James Baker. During his 60-mile round trip and from work on main roads in Surrey, he counted 1,304 animals and birds killed from 1987 to the end of last year.

The death toll, on the journey through habitats from oak woodland, meadows and marshland to urban fringe, rose steadily from 174 in 1987 to 306 in 1990 and 383 last year. The figures for last year included 127 rabbits, the most frequent victims, 45 foxes, 29 woodpigeons, 24 pheasants, 22 grey squirrels, 20 hedgehogs, 12 rats, 12 badgers and 11 magpies, and smaller numbers of roe deer.

The transport department confirmed that no national survey of animal road deaths had been undertaken.

ANIMAL AND BIRD ROAD DEATHS					
	On one 30-mile route through Surrey				
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Domestic/feral cat	12	12	8	11	13
Grey squirrel	20	43	14	34	22
Rabbit	24	49	54	70	127
Badger	6	11	4	8	12
Pheasant	11	17	8	25	24
Fox	33	42	37	53	45
Hedgehog	21	12	9	11	25
Blackbird	2	7	2	5	7
Wood pigeon	7	18	18	17	29
Stoat	1	1	-	-	-
Roe deer	3	3	3	4	3
Magpie	8	8	2	12	11
Dog	1	1	1	5	12
Rat	-	9	1	5	12

Civil War armour back in front line

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE Civil War exhibition sponsored by *The Times* was opened yesterday by Lord Hotham, a descendant of Sir John Hotham who buried Charles I from entering Hull in 1642 and began the manoeuvrings that preceded hostilities. Lord Hotham defended his ancestor, saying that Sir John had been a supporter of the monarchy, but like many noblemen had not liked King Charles.

"We are lucky to have an organisation like the Royal Armouries to ensure that these arms are preserved," he said. "We owe gratitude to the organisers and the sponsor for helping put on such an exhibition."

The exhibition, which will travel to four other sites, displays arms and armour, ranging from two of the

English revolution
Saturday Review, 23-26



Vital image: artist's impression of the rapist

Bard's rural idyll found wanting

BY CRAIG SETON

SHAKESPEARE may turn in his grave. Countryside around his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, is not the rural idyll that tourism promoters suggest.

A survey of potential sites for development on the town's borders indicates that there is little to preserve from new housing. It claims that there is a marked absence of woodland, few plants of note and a paucity of wildlife. Kingfishers and other birdlife could be found and there was a shortage of places for songbirds to nest and feed.

The study by landscape and wildlife consultants of about 750 acres of fields and 28 miles of hedgerows and boundary land was ordered by Stratford-on-Avon district council to ensure that any valuable sites are spared development.

Pamela Copson, keeper of biology at the Warwickshire Museum, who helped in the survey, said yesterday that she had found the land impoverished for wildlife, and largely used for intensive arable farming and nondescript grassland that created few opportunities for plants and animals to flourish. Moreover, gardeners on the town boundary had created a neat, but artificial, environment.

The idyllic image of Shakespeare country was "not matched by reality". Mrs Copson said. There were few brooks and the only ponds were dry or filled with rubble. Although there was evidence of foxes and rabbits, no badger sets could be found and there was a shortage of places for songbirds to nest and feed.

With the exception of a couple of haymeadows, there was little to get excited about.

Mrs Copson said that there were grants to enable farmers to return land to a more natural state if it was not required for agriculture, but supervised building developments with landscaping might offer a better environment for wildlife than now existed.

She said: "What we want is a nice skin around the edge of Stratford to make it attractive to approach from any direction and where residents can walk and look at the wildlife."

Lightning strike cuts BBC TV news

BY MELINDA WITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LIGHTNING strike by 170 picture editors disrupted the *One O'Clock News* on BBC1 yesterday. The technicians walked out at noon on a 24-hour stoppage but returned at 3pm to show their "commitment to public service broadcasting" during the election.

The normal 30-minute bulletin was cut to ten minutes. "There was total confusion," according to Vincent Feiner, BBC national organiser of Bechtel, the broadcasting union. "They just didn't know what to do."

Ninety-five per cent of the news and current affairs picture editors had voted to walk out in support of their film editor colleagues, who also launched a 24-hour stoppage yesterday to protest at widespread redundancies.

A one-day blackout of all BBC radio and television programmes as "a vote of no confidence" in BBC senior management has been called by Bechtel for May 15.

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Death at New Manor Farm

Scientists examine copse shotgun trap

By STEWART TENDERLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office scientists yesterday began testing a gun and a remote control system found close to the body of Peter Jowett, the wealthy Wiltshire farmer discovered shot in the back in a copse near Salisbury.

A shotgun, a battery operated arming device and an electrical wire leading away were discovered built into a wooden box 2ft by 18in, hidden in undergrowth 20 yards

from the body. Mr Jowett was reported missing on Wednesday night when staff at his 900-acre New Manor Farm arrived to relieve him from lambing duties. Police found his car on the A30 and then the body.

Last night, police said that they were still treating the investigation as a murder enquiry but it was possible that Mr Jowett died accidentally. The result of ballistic tests

next week will show whether this could have happened. One theory is that he was setting up a system to protect his land from foxes.

The shotgun device, which could be similar to an old fashioned method for scaring foxes away from pheasant pens, was about 2ft off the ground. The spot was an odd one for an anti-pest system, as no pheasants are kept near by and it is close to a main road. If the gun was intended to kill Mr Jowett, police will have to work out how it was sighted in the wood at night.

There was a 20-yard trail of blood from the device to the body. It seems that Mr Jowett was shot at close range and staggered away. A further post-mortem examination of his body was made yesterday because a pathologist found two entry wounds but only one bullet. Mr Jowett may have been hit at close range by a bullet and debris from the bullet's charge.

Police have found no evidence to substantiate suggestions that Mr Jowett was a "ladies' man" and could have been murdered out of jealousy.

They talked to Lavinia Jowett, his widow, yesterday. She and her children are staying with relatives rather than at the farmhouse.

A mile away, by the A30, at a spot known locally as Pickpocket, from the stage-coach days, policemen were combing undergrowth for clues to the death of Mr Jowett.

Elderly gardeners potted in the village, based on four hamlets on a 500ft ridge that is level with the top of the spire of Salisbury cathedral (Stewart Tenderler writes).

Rural calm broken

WINTERSLOW, home village of Peter Jowett, is somewhere where "no one ever came unless they were lost or curious", according to Reginald Titt, chairman of the parish council. "We don't often see a policeman, we don't often need one," he said, reflecting on normal times in the Wiltshire village now at the centre of a murder enquiry (Stewart Tenderler writes).

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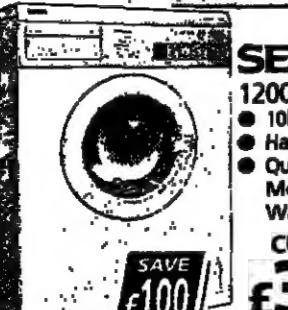
Elderly gardeners potted in the village, based on four hamlets on a 500ft ridge that is level with the top of the spire of Salisbury cathedral (Stewart Tenderler writes).



Spanish practice: Maria del Mar Berlanga, Spain's top woman flamenco dancer, and the guitarist Juan Martin rehearsing for tonight's performance by the Duende Flamenco Dance Company at the Barbican centre, London. The group, aged 17 to 23, are considered to be the cream of Spain's flamenco dancers

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Irishmen
face trial
for army
murder

Amphetamines bound for Britain

English police find Dordogne drug base

By DAVID YOUNG

DETECTIVES are hunting an Englishman who owns a farm in the Dordogne area of France which has been used as a drug-making "factory" to produce amphetamines destined for southeast England.

Police believe that their success in uncovering illegal drug-production centres in Britain is forcing producers and dealers to set up bases in Europe.

In the latest operation, detectives from the Number Six regional crime squad covering Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire led French police to the remote farmhouse in the village of Meneplet. The farmhouse was unoccupied at the time of the raid but officers discovered a complete set of equipment and chemicals to produce amphetamines. Glassware, piping and more than 100 kilograms of "precursor" chemicals such as caustic soda had recently been used to produce the drug, although no drugs were found in the raid.

Belgian detectives, who had also been briefed by crime squad officers yesterday raided a flat at Middlekerke where they found two bags containing 50 kilograms of amphetamine sulphate with an estimated value of £250,000. These bags were also destined for the south of England.

Chatlines sued for £660,000

Trustees of the chatlines compensation fund are to sue eight former chatline operators to make good part of a £1 million shortfall in the money available to meet claims by people facing massive telephone bills because of abuse of their services.

In the High Court, Mr Justice Aldous gave the trustees leave to sue each company for its share of the £660,000 due in January when writs were issued. The plug was pulled on the chatlines by the watchdog Ofcom because most had failed to pay into the fund.

Father jailed

Almas Ahmad, aged 50, a Muslim of Wembley, northwest London, was jailed for life for stabbing to death his daughter Farah, aged 19, after she left home to live with her boy friend.

Arson death

Nick Cook, aged 16, died and his mother Marilyn, aged 39, is in hospital with serious burns after an arson attack on their home in Middleport, Staffordshire.

Hot and cold

The Common Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, closed two years ago after thousands of volunteers were paid to catch colds in a futile attempt to find a cure, has been burnt to the ground. The fire brigade spent more than eight hours at the scene, and managed to use the incident for training.

Short wrestles wily Karpov

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, the white knight of British chess and the highest ranked UK grandmaster in the history of the game, makes the opening moves of his greatest challenge today when his world championship semi-final begins against Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion.

The match, in Linares, Spain, is one of the concurrent semi-finals that will propel the ultimate winner towards a \$3 million (£1.7 million) challenge next year to the reigning world champion, Gary Kasparov. The second semi-final pits the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman against the former Soviet player Artur Yusupov, now resident in Germany.

Each semi-final will be for the best of ten games, with a prize fund of 300,000 Swiss francs (£15,000) at stake in each match.

If the scores are level after ten games, qualifiers will be decided by quick-play chess, a method which has been designed by the World Chess Federation to

Chess,
Saturday Review, page 45

The raids, part of an operation codenamed "Face The Music", have led to a search for the owner of the farmhouse, a man from East Sussex. The equipment found in the Dordogne raid is being examined by French forensic scientists from Toulouse and fingerprint experts from Bordeaux.

A spokesman for the regional crime squad said: "A fully equipped drugs factory was discovered in France used to produce amphetamines for distribution throughout South-East England. Regional crime squad detectives have for some time felt that police pressure on British drug dealers in this country has forced them abroad to try other channels of production and distribution of amphetamines."

The crime squad officers had already found a "drug factory" in Spain. They led Spanish detectives to a villa at Calahonda on the Costa del Sol where £500,000 worth of amphetamine sulphate and a complete production line were found.

Three British citizens, two men and a woman all from Kent, were arrested and were charged by Spanish authorities with conspiracy to produce the drug. It was the first time such a factory aimed at smuggling the drug into the

UK had been found on the Continent.

Two men and a woman appeared in court yesterday after the seizure of cocaine and "crack" in south London with a street value estimated at £100,000.

Bobby Campbell, aged 28, a musician, of Brixton, and Neil Reid, aged 29, of Lewisham, are accused of possession of cocaine with intent to supply. Mr Campbell was also accused of possessing ammunition.

Lorraine Miller, aged 28, a secretary, of Mitcham, south London, is accused of conspiracy to supply cocaine, possession of ammunition and cannabis. Mr Campbell and Mr Reid were remanded in custody by Camberwell Green magistrates until April 16. Miss Miller was remanded on conditional bail until the same date.

Scotland Yard said that the charges were brought after the seizure of controlled drugs three days ago.

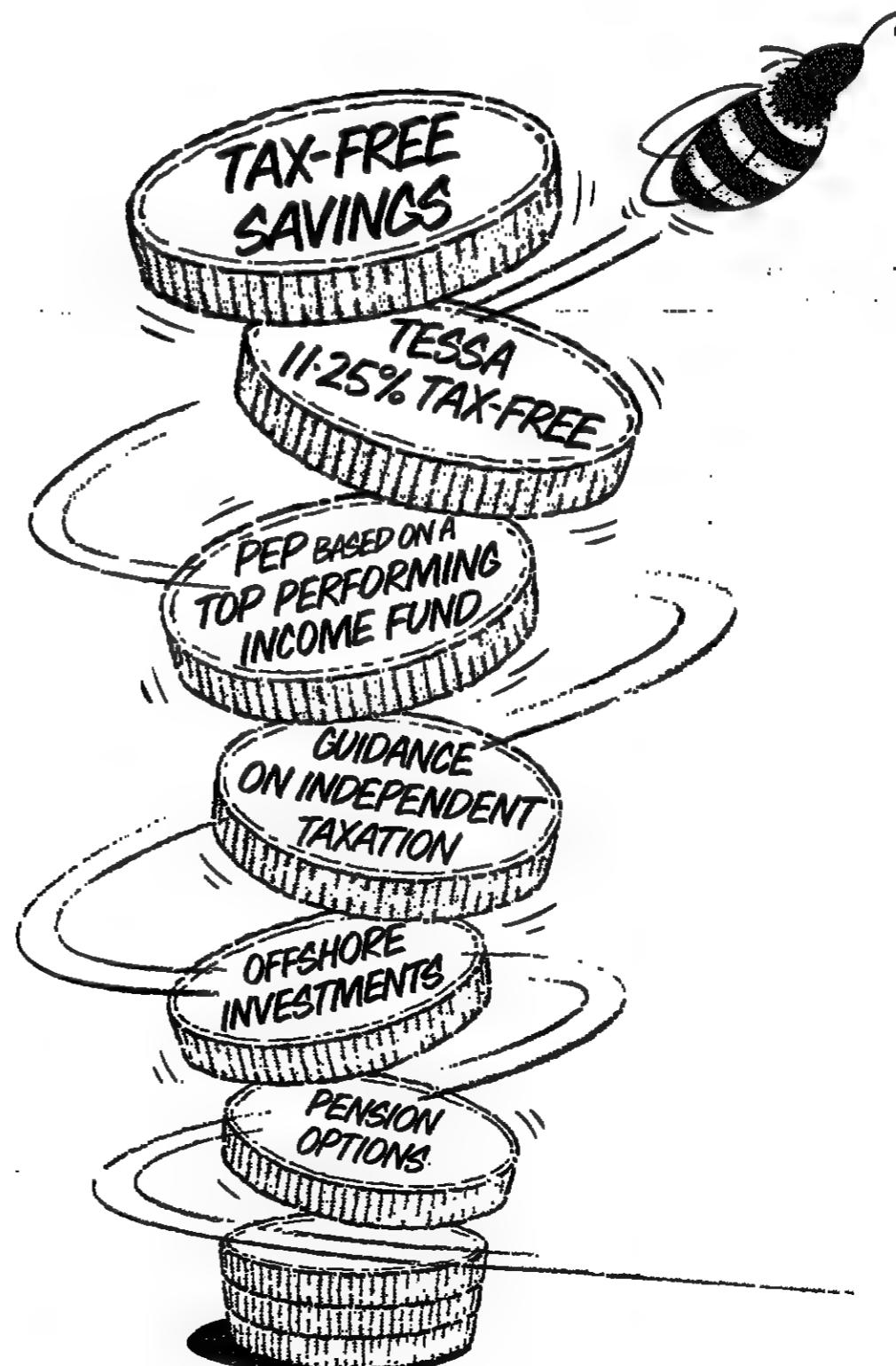


Pot for one: David Barker, an archaeologist, with a tiny teapot dating from about 1730, found during excavation of a development site in Stoke-on-Trent. Other ware and two kiln floors have been unearthed

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Women shed new light on old image

By PHILIP HOWARD
LITERARY EDITOR

WOMAN wailing because her man has left her is a cliché of western art, it is the basis of the blues and opera, of Cole Porter and a lot of tragedy. The poet Ruth Padel told the Classical Association conference in Oxford yesterday that the stereotype has deeper roots than we supposed.

Going back 2,500 years, she suggested that Euripides introduced the image into tragedy. He turned women bereft of their lovers into a dramatic image of human pain. But it tends to be men using women's pain to express their own.

Women are bringing their minds to bear on these old cultural stereotypes created by men. Christianne Sourvinou-Inwood of University College, Oxford, showed how Euripides made up bad women to get across revolutionary new truths about the war between the sexes. In that male dominated society of ancient Greece, certain things could be uttered by only a really bad woman.

Yugoslav army chiefs threaten full-scale military intervention

Embattled Bosnia pleads for help

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday made a dramatic appeal to the world to "prevent aggression against our peaceful country". Mr Izetbegovic spoke an hour after a renewed round of shelling had shaken the Bosnian capital and after Yugoslav army chiefs had threatened full-scale military intervention.

Addressing his appeal to the European Community, the United Nations Security Council and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mr Izetbegovic claimed that 3,000 men, women and children had been besieged in Zvornik and had been given an ultimatum

to give up their arms. "They have no weapons," said a grim-looking Mr Izetbegovic. Serb territorial defence units had surrounded the Gornji Sepak part of the town where these people have taken refuge. The Yugoslav army was watching without doing anything to prevent it, he said. The predominantly Muslim town fell to a Serb militia unit on Thursday.

Yesterday afternoon Josip Maria Mendiluce, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who had just returned from the area, said he had seen "several thousand terrified people without food or shelter in a hamlet com-

prising only a few houses". The hamlet was called Lijica. Other officials said they had seen ten to 15 bodies, including those of old people, being loaded on trucks.

White Serb militias continued to fight in eastern Bosnia. Yugoslav army chiefs threatened to intervene. So far the Serb-dominated military had either claimed only to be separating warring factions or retaliating against attacks.

Bosnian Stevanovic, the Yugoslav air force chief, said: "If stolen military equipment is not returned and armed attacks on units and facilities do not cease... we will take full combat measures against objectives and formations which we think most threaten us."

The air force has already mounted at least three bombing raids against Bosnian Croat positions this week.

Yesterday afternoon Jose Cutilheiro, the Portuguese chairman of the EC-sponsored talks on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, returned to Sarajevo in an attempt to reopen negotiations and halt the slide to civil war. Professor Milorad Ekmeotic, a leading Bosnian Serb historian and adviser to Radovan Karadzic, the republic's main Serb leader, said he expected the EC talks to resume. "But the war will go on. There will be 15 days of peace, 15 days of fighting... historically it has always been like this in Bosnia."

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy to Yugoslavia and architect of the UN peace plan for Croatia, is expected to arrive in Sarajevo today to consult senior peace-keeping officials. The UN peacekeeping force, which is based in the city, has no mandate to intervene in Bosnia.

• Foreign recognition: Finland recognised Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state yesterday, a foreign ministry spokesman said. President Koivisto signed the notice. Czechoslovakia has also decided to recognise the republic as a sovereign state. A foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday the decision was based on an agreement with Hungary and Poland. Italy said yesterday that it planned to establish diplomatic relations soon with the republic. (Reuters)

broiled in a tug-of-war with Russia over control of the former Soviet Union's tactical nuclear weapons and the Black Sea fleet, was also aint.

Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, commander of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who held a bilateral meeting with General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he discussed strategic and tactical weapons, conventional forces and "ways to find political solutions to conflicts throughout the world", adding: "We have developed common approaches to all these issues." General Powell said Marshal Shaposhnikov had assured him that Moscow had solid control of all the nuclear weapons in the former Soviet republics.

America said on Thursday that it had warned Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the four republics with nuclear arms, that they must move quickly to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), which will reduce long-range weapons by about 30 per cent.

General Powell said he hoped Ukraine would soon resume shipment of nuclear weapons to Russia. Kiev has suspended the shipments in a dispute over the monitoring of their destruction. "We have reasons to be very hopeful that tactical nuclear weapons return... to Russia will begin again in due course," General Powell said.

France, which is not in Nato's military structure, and Iceland, which has no armed forces, were observers at the meeting, and some Eastern states appointed others to represent them. Several former Soviet republics, including Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldavia and Uzbekistan, were absent.

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ployed in a tug-of-war with Russia over control of the former Soviet Union's tactical nuclear weapons and the Black Sea fleet, was also aint.

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Running for cover: a Serbian fighter trying to avoid sniper fire in an eastern suburb of Sarajevo yesterday as fighting continued in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ukraine's admiral sets his sights on Black Sea fleet

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SEVASTOPOL

UKRAINE'S newly appointed commander-in-chief of naval forces, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, said yesterday that he would continue to create "the necessary command structures" to take control of the entire Black Sea fleet based in the Crimean city of Sevastopol.

However, Admiral Kozhin confirmed that he had received instructions not to take charge of the navy until a political agreement over the fleet's future had been agreed between Russia and Ukraine.

He gave no date for the final takeover of the fleet but said: "The process will be contin-

ued and developed. We will not stop because we have already made a political decision to form a Ukrainian navy based in Sevastopol."

Speaking at a press conference organised by Ukrainian officials, the admiral said that the commanders of many of the fleet's 300 ships were ready to break links with the Kremlin-backed Admiral Igor Kazarov.

His comments emphasised the change in Ukraine's attitude over the fleet since last month. Previously President Kravchuk's government was willing to split political control of the fleet, but now the

process will be continued.

Admiral Kazarov made an admiral out of you; how can you look into his eyes? How many oaths can you take? You were grateful to Kazarov, but you violated his orders," one said.

To most persons from the Black Sea fleet the political row means little apart from insecurity over their future employment, giving an added headache to the difficulties of surviving on meagre military wages in a climate of spiralling inflation. Most said Captain Aleksandr Garshkov, who was waiting for a "civilised" solution to the problem.

Support for Russia in the city appears to be stronger than it is in the navy itself, where almost every unit has refused to display the Russian ensign over their ships or buildings. Sevastopol is a naval base rooted in the Kremlin's military traditions and is deeply embedded in the national psyche, the results of its experiences at the hands of French, British and German besiegers in the past 150 years.

Yeltsin wins time for a reshuffle

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SUPPORTERS and opponents of Boris Yeltsin were locked in combat yesterday, trying to wrest from each other the vital concessions that would allow the Russian Congress of People's Deputies to complete its agenda. Behind the scenes, a compromise of sorts was taking shape, but President Yeltsin had expressed misgiving and many hours' more work was envisaged.

The immediate issue is the continuation of the special powers Mr Yeltsin was granted at the last congress in October when he became prime minister. These include his right to form a government without reference to parliament and issue decrees on economic matters.

More than half the number of deputies appear to believe that the reforms have run out

of control, brought undesirable consequences, and should be adjusted.

By mid-morning, Mr Yeltsin had averted the first threat — a draft congress document that would have stripped him of the special powers and required him to relinquish the post of prime minister.

Before the draft had been referred back to the editing commission, Mr Yeltsin strode to the rostrum and said that an immediate government reshuffle was out of the question. He undertook to nominate an additional deputy prime minister before the end of the congress, scheduled for next Wednesday, and nominate a new government by October 1 with a view to completing the process by December 1. "By then, all will be clear."

The Cindy Adams column in the New York Post reports that Goni, "the dapper Don", is allowed one telephone call a night at the correctional centre and used one to talk to her for six minutes about his appeal. He said: "We'll be back out there again... too many errors were made."

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Jane Fonda, a newlywed at 54, says age and her marriage to the media tycoon, Ted Turner, have helped her appreciate the quiet satisfactions of home and family. "I was driven every moment of my life," she told the *Woman's Day Chronicle* of her years as a liberal firebrand.

She said issues important to her now include "rest and replenishment and feeling safe and secure with somebody".

That's what Ted is for me, and the few things I regret in my life are... not having put enough time into mothering, wiving, taking care of the inner life," she said.

Spike Lee blames a racist Hollywood system for the trouble he had getting funding for his upcoming film, *Malcolm X*, the story of the Black Muslim leader. "Hollywood still doesn't recognise black cinema," he said. "They still aren't ready to spend as much money on black film as they do on white." Lee said

PEOPLE

Mafia boss sends his love from jail: 'We'll be back'

His prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, but also Mickey Mouse at the Tokyo Disney land. Tokyo sources have denied a report by the former Communist party daily, *Pravda*, that Mr Gorbachev had been promised \$500,000 (£290,000) for the "commercial visit" by two Japanese newspapers, *Yomiuri* and *Asahi*.

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Belgium
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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

De Klerk meets Babangida

Black and white find harmony in Nigeria

FROM ELIZABETH OBADINA IN LAGOS

SOUTH Africa and Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, put four decades of hostility behind them in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, yesterday when President Babangida pledged support for President de Klerk's constitutional reforms.

They discussed improving bilateral relations, the future of South Africa within the family of African nations, and Nigeria's role as a mediator between Pretoria and its internal opponents. Mr de Klerk said before leaving that the talks had been "warm and friendly, extremely constructive".

Earlier he told a state banquet in his honour: "History has kept us apart for many reasons for many decades. Tonight we can say that the barriers of history are being broken down." Mr de Klerk also provided the entertainment, joining in a quartet with his wife, Marica, and General and Mrs Babangida. The four held hands and sang of the need to make the world a better place for everyone.

The performance amazed Nigerians, whose government had previously turned down South African requests for a visit. At the banquet General Babangida said that the whites-only referendum on March 17 which backed Mr de Klerk's reforms was the turning point which precipitated this first visit.

He described Mr de Klerk as a visionary leader who had "taken a well-deserved position" alongside the black South African heroes. Steve

Biko and Nelson Mandela. He said South Africa's policies were "tremendously exciting" and promised Nigeria's support for constitutional development through the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. The Pan African Congress, which has consistently refused to participate in Codesa, met South African officials for the first time in Abuja.

General Babangida expressed serious concern about the wave of violence in South Africa which he said, posed "incalculable danger for the reform process".

The South Africans hope that their visit to Abuja will open doors to the rest of Africa and help them join the Organisation of African Unity. But Bolaji Akiniyemi, a former Nigerian foreign minister, said on television on Thursday night that OAU members were never quite comfortable with Nigeria taking initiatives such as this, and that he was not sure whether General Babangida was acting as chairman of the OAU or president of Nigeria.

Mr de Klerk's visit comes after the resumption last week of diplomatic relations between South Africa and Ivory Coast, Nigeria's neighbour, and many African nations look to Nigeria to provide a lead. Nigeria wants to see South Africa join the African Economic Treaty, signed in Abuja during last June's OAU summit.

Pointing out that Africa faces the challenge of overcoming poverty, illiteracy and

the needs of development, Mr de Klerk said: "Nigeria is one of the pivotal points in addressing these challenges and the needs of our continent. And South Africa is another pivotal point doing exactly the same. And if we join forces with others in Africa to accept the challenges, the dynamics which will result will be much greater than the dynamism and power of all the component parts."

Although the visit is unlikely to bring an immediate end to Nigerian sanctions against South Africa, it has hastened the process. South Africa hopes to benefit from Nigeria's oil, whilst Nigerian businessmen look forward to embracing South Africa's technology.

However Professor Akiniyemi sounded a note of caution, saying that with Nigerian industry unable to even satisfy internal market, "South African goods are likely to flood the Nigerian market rather than the other way around".



Reaching out: President Babangida outlines the advantages to Nigeria of his new friendship with President de Klerk during his meeting yesterday with the South African leader at the presidential residence in Abuja

Two shots fired near Mandela

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO shots were fired yesterday as Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, drove through Emseleni, a black township in northern Natal where at least 60 people have been killed in the past three months.

It was not clear if the shots came near Mr Mandela. Saki Macozoma, an ANC spokesman, said he had seen a man with a gun in a field and ANC security officials said later they had found a man who said he had been "playing" with his home-made weapon and did not mean to frighten anyone.

Meanwhile, the ANC has demanded that the South African Army's controversial 32 Battalion, consisting of Namibians and former Angolans, be confined to barracks and disbanded after an alleged rampage through Phola Park squatter camp east of Johannesburg. The ANC claims that on Wednesday units of the battalion assaulted more than 100 people in the camp, killed one woman and raped several.

Africa club puts out welcome mat for unlikely hero

The nations of black Africa are increasingly looking to South Africa as an export market and potential investment bank. Sam Kiley writes

President de Klerk could not have hoped for a more fulsome welcome or more passionate flattery on his first visit to Nigeria. A 21-gun salute and his inclusion by General Ibrahim Babangida in South Africa's gallery of reformist heroes, such as Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko, is a sure sign that South Africa is now allowed to come in from the cold and rejoin the dark continent as a full member.

This is a breakthrough for Mr de Klerk and for the South African ministry of foreign affairs which sees Nigeria, Kenya and Egypt as the main access for developing economic and political ties throughout Africa. It is equally, if not more, important for the many African countries anxious to do business with Pretoria but so far have been coy in their dealing with the republic for fear of upsetting the African National Congress.

With Nigeria's General Babangida holding the presidency of the Organisation of African Unity, South Africa's announcement that it would like to join the body is well timed. Mr de Klerk is sure to win Nigeria's much-needed backing and may take his seat at the organisation's headquarters in Addis Ababa before the end of the year.

South Africans want to join the organisation not so much because they see it as a worthwhile group — it has been no more effective in helping to solve Africa's problems than the League of Nations was at preventing the second world war — but because, as one diplomat put it, "that would be the cherry on the cake for us. A sign that we are at last being accepted as Afri-

cans". Other Africans are looking to South Africa as a vast potential market for their exports as well as a sort of pan-African investment bank. Many, like the Kenyans, relish the thought of the arrival of planeloads of aggressive and competent South African businessmen with joint venture proposals in their briefcases that will revitalise semi-dormant local industries.

As a group of black Sowetan businessmen said after a recent visit to Kenya, one of the best-run black African countries, "they will have to smarten up their acts".

The businessmen were shocked at the state of the roads, telephones and other services in Mombasa, Kenya's second city. "What is President Moi going to do to raise his people from the gutter?" they wondered.

Nevertheless Kenya, where South Africa already has a permanent representative, and Nigeria are crucial for developing Pretoria's influence over the continent. R.W. "Pik" Botha and others in his foreign ministry are not much interested in what the others have to offer. Their priority is the erstwhile frontier states, then come Egypt in the north as a gateway to the Middle East and the two capitalist economies in East and West Africa. "We feel very strongly about Lagos, Cairo and Nairobi," a South African official said. "We are sure we can work well with those countries immediately. But the further north you go, the greater the belief that South Africa is coming to the continent with bags of money to invest. If you look at our economy, there is not much to spread around."

That makes the success of Mr de Klerk's Lagos visit all the more crucial as oil-rich Nigeria has the potential to become an investor in South Africa rather than the other way round.

As Mr Botha said in Lagos this week, Nigeria, which has the largest population on the continent, and South Africa, which has the biggest economy, can combine to project more forcefully the views of Africa, which is in danger of being marginalised and ignored by the industrialised world.



Botha: trade route to Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya

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Afghan deal promises peace

Najibullah agrees to give up power

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan announced yesterday that he was ready to hand over control of his disintegrating administration to a 15-man transitional council being set up by the United Nations. He may resign before the end of the month.

The council will attempt to stop the country sinking further into ethnic and tribal anarchy pending the installation of an interim government, which would try to pave the way to elections. Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said in Geneva that creation of the transitional council, which will take over "as soon as possible", represented first step towards reconciliation. UN sources said it was hoped that the body would hold power for no more than 45 days.

Dr Boutros Ghali said the agreement to set up the council marked "major progress" towards lasting peace in Afghanistan, racked by civil war since the overthrow of President Daoud by officers professing Soviet-style communism in 1978. He said the council would be composed of "impartial personalities" and a statement issued later said that consultations were under way on who would join the council and on other arrangements for the transitional period. It said there was an understanding that, once the council took power, there would be a cessation of hostilities, a declaration of general amnesty and guarantees of safety and security for all Afghans.

The transitional council will be a weak structure, serving as a modest symbol of power in Kabul while a *Jirga* (assembly) is convened, possibly next month, aimed at setting up an interim government. The assembly was due to be held in Geneva or Vienna, but may now be held inside Afghanistan. It faces daunting obstacles: Iran and Pakistan are fighting for influence, rival mujahedin groups may compete for power, and worsening ethnic divisions may continue to blight peace prospects.

The new council was rejected yesterday by Gulbuddin

by mujahedin rebels. But the military is likely to remain intact and support the new council. With Dr Najibullah out of power, non-Pashtun militia groups that have mutinied in recent weeks might return to the fold.

The battle to save Afghanistan from further ethnic and tribal warfare is at a critical stage. The ethnic divide is essentially along Pashtun and anti-Pashtun lines, reflecting centuries of resentment at the dominating position of Pashtuns over the apparatus of government.

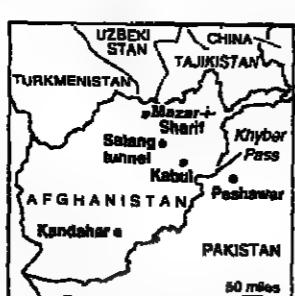
Mazar-i-Sharif, the second largest city, has fallen to renegade Uzbek and Tajik militia who rebelled against Pashtun domination. The rebels control a section of the Salang highway, the only land link to Central Asia and a vital supply lifeline. The loss of the city and the Salang dealt a serious blow to Dr Najibullah's prestige and demonstrated that he was losing control.

Bonin Sevan, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan who has held intensive negotiations over the past few months with all sides in the Afghan conflict and the governments of neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, is expected to announce the names of the 15 members of the new council next week. There is bound to be controversy over the choices. He is due to meet mujahedin groups in Pakistan on Tuesday, including Hezb-i-Islami, to try to persuade them to go along with the peace plan.

Dr Najibullah has watched power rapidly drain away from him in recent months amid increasing ethnic tensions. Serious food shortages have affected even the privileged minority who possess government food coupons, further eroding his power base. Should he step down, he is likely to take the remaining top loyalists in his Watan (Homeland) party with him, leaving a power vacuum that the new council would attempt to fill.

One crucial question concerns what the army and the government's militia forces will do. If they fall apart, Kabul could go the way of other Afghan cities that have been overrun and plundered

Najibullah: plagued by shortages of food



In the bag: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, signalling success at a press conference in Geneva yesterday when he announced the agreement of most sides in the Afghan conflict to set up a 15-member governing transitional council in Kabul

Brown rages at drug 'fiction'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER weeks of hunting accusations at Bill Clinton, Jerry Brown yesterday found himself on the receiving end. Four past members of his security detail alleged that, as governor of California in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Democratic presidential candidate hosted parties at which "large quantities" of cocaine and marijuana were used.

The charges, coming on the day that President Bush denounced 1992 as "about the ugliest political year I've ever seen", prompted furious denials from Mr Brown, who cancelled a campaign rally in Virginia and rushed to Washington's television network studios to defend himself.

Mr Brown called the charges "bizarre, defamatory and unsubstantiated". He said they had to be politically inspired. The 54-year-old bachelor said he never held parties, which was "why I'm supposed to be weird".

Neither claimed to have seen Mr Brown using drugs, but under California law it is an offence knowingly to have either drug in one's house. The officers claimed they did not arrest Mr Brown at the time because he was governor of California and their job was to protect him, but that they did raise the issue with their superiors, who did nothing. They refused to be identified for fear of losing their jobs or pensions.

Numerous figures came forward to denounce the charges, including two of Mr Brown's police drivers, the chief of his state police detail at the time, and two of his former chiefs of staff.

The charges came just a few days after Bill Clinton, Mr Brown's opponent, admitted on a television chat show that he had tried marijuana while a student at Oxford. Appearing on the same programme, Mr Brown denied ever breaking drugs laws, adding: "I agree with Clinton. Why don't you lay off this stuff? What you did 10 or 20 years ago is not relevant."

Khomeini's son warns the West

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEHRAN

THE spectre of the late Ayatollah Khomeini loomed over yesterday's general election in Iran as candidates were reminded of their duty to honour his memory by continuing to export the Islamic revolution. The call by his radical son, Ahmad, was a snub to moderate President Rafsanjani, who has emphasised that the vote should be the signal for improved ties with the outside world.

Looking like his father in a black turban, Ahmad, a symbol but influential figure, spoke after casting his vote in the room where the ayatollah used to preach after the 1979 revolution. He was greeted with prayers vowing death to America, Britain and Israel. About 2,200 candidates are vying for a place in the 270-seat parliament. Political parties are banned, but most support one or the other of two rival Muslim clerical societies.

Ahmad Khomeini attacked the foreign media for supposedly inventing the power struggle between "moderate" and "radical" factions which has dominated the campaign. Special visas have

been granted to 60 foreign journalists to cover the event. Despite evidence to the contrary in the 30,000 polling stations, he insisted the split was the figment of the imagination of the big powers.

Invoking the memory of his father, who on the eve of the last election in 1988 urged the nation not to vote for "capitalist Islam", Ahmad Khomeini, who was not a candidate, warned the outside world that the new deputies would persist in spreading Iran's revolution to every Islamic nation. Following a blocking of the achievements in Africa, the threat was seen in diplomatic circles as a hint that Iran will continue to be a source of violent instability.

Hojaotolislam Rafsanjani pledged to support democracy and said his government would respond to public opinion expressed by the poll. Most voters expressed a belief in the moderates, encouraged during the campaign in which President Rafsanjani's brother controlled radio and television, would win a parliamentary majority for the first time.

Among the smart villas in the north of the city, voters expressed enthusiasm for economic reform, outside investment and the return of exiled professionals. Across the city in the slums, opinion was more divided. Walls were still covered with anti-American slogans and thousands of militiamen were prepared for disruption by Islamic rebels calling for a boycott.

A swing to the moderates of 15 per cent is considered likely and sufficient to prevent the radicals from using parliament to block political and economic reform. The poll's outcome will not be known until after a second round of voting.

Canada's Indians win deal

Ottawa: Canadian constitutional negotiators have agreed to recognise the inherent right of Canada's aboriginal peoples to self-government (John Besi writes).

The agreement in principle was announced at the end of two days of talks involving representatives of the federal government and the provinces in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The deal was hailed as an important victory by the country's most powerful native Indian leader.

Ovide Mercredi, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said that a stumbling block to the achievement of the aspirations of Canada's one million aborigines had been cleared.

Bob Rae, the premier of Ontario and leading exponent of the rights of indigenous populations, called the accord a legal, moral and psychological breakthrough. He said Canada was finally coming to terms with 500 years of colonial history.

Imelda yields

Manila: Imelda Marcos, the Philippines' presidential candidate and former first lady, has agreed to a government demand to delay the return of the body of her husband, Ferdinand, the former president, until after the elections on May 11. (AFP)

Reactors sold

Peking: China will export miniature nuclear reactors to Syria and Ghana, the Xinhua news agency reported. The announcement was apparently designed to counter Western criticism of the usually secretive nuclear deals China does. (AP)

Exodus ended

Geneva: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said he has arranged the repatriation to Burma of about 200,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled into Bangladesh alleging rape and murder by the Burmese army. (AFP)

Mop-up begins

Phnom Penh: A unit of Britain's Royal Engineers will begin landmine-clearing programme next week in Cambodia around the western town of Pailin, which is controlled by the Khmer Rouge, their commanding officer said. (Reuters)

Help planned

Addis Ababa: The presidents of Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti have agreed to set up a co-ordinating body to help six million refugees in the region and the ten million people displaced by drought and war. Somalia failed to attend the summit. (AP)

Shrinking sales

Tokyo: Konica, the Japanese camera maker, will next week put the world's smallest single-use camera on sale. The size of a pack of cigarettes, it will cost £7.60 with a flash or £4 without. The company offers to refit the cameras for reuse. (Reuters)

Stamped out

Jerusalem: A poster of Marilyn Monroe wearing a glittery bathing costume and doing a jig has been banned from Israeli post offices for fear it would offend religious Jews. The poster advertised an issue of stamps depicting dead film stars. (Reuters)

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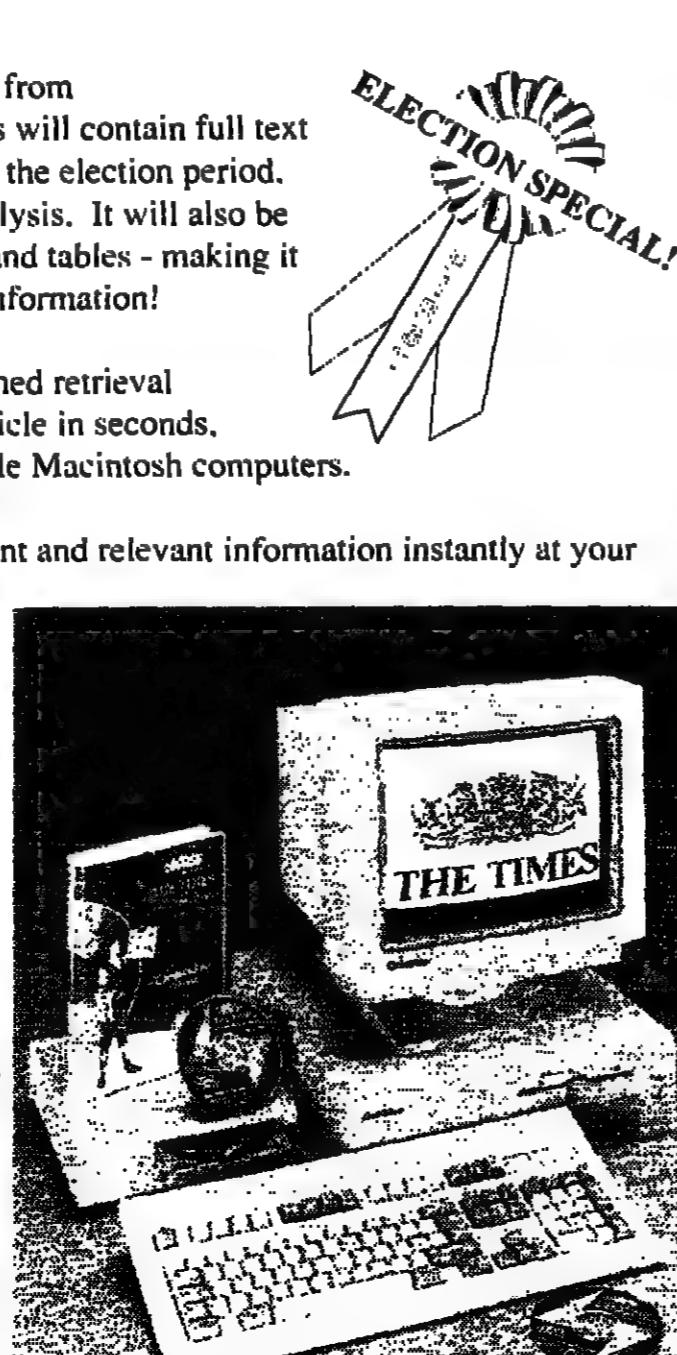
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Noriega armoury of appeals can drag case on for years

WHILE the Bush administration celebrated the conviction on Thursday of Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian military leader, as an important victory against drugs, American criminal lawyers said that the cocaine trafficking and racketeering case against him was flawed and could drag on for years in the appeal courts.

Unease among American lawyers about the trial was matched by Democrat congressmen who yesterday questioned the propriety in bringing General Noriega before a US court, and raised again objections to the 1989 American invasion of Panama which led to the toppling of the military leader and his arrest.

"I think it will be remembered as one of the worst pages in our history," said Charles Schumer, a New York congressman.

Criticism of the case was dismissed by William Barr, the US attorney-general. "This sends an important message to the drug lords: there are no safe havens; their wealth and their firepower cannot protect them forever." Much of the Bush administration's delight in the outcome of the seven-month long trial in Miami against Noriega can be put down to relief. If he had been found not guilty, then

representation as he might have wanted. Government electronic interceptions of telephone calls the former military leader made from his prison cell to his lawyers will also come up.

Mr Rubino will also ask an appeal court to rule on the validity of the trial judge's decision in prohibiting the defence from presenting evidence that Noriega was co-operating with the CIA in the war against drugs.

Several leading US lawyers believe that Mr Rubino's case could well be a compelling one. "Everybody who has witnessed this case has been shocked at the government's behaviour," said Jeffrey Weiner, president of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers.

The issue of the right of federal law enforcement agents to seize fugitives abroad is already before the Supreme Court, which is to rule on a case of a Mexican who was abducted by federal agents. A decision in favour of the Mexican would have important repercussions for a Noriega appeal.

In an appeal, Mr Rubino is also likely to argue that the freezing of Noriega's financial assets by the US government was illegal and prevented the former dictator from having the ability to pay for as wide legal

Clifford Longley

What is the moral basis for the capitalist system?

Civil servants at the Department of Trade and Industry or the Treasury should not be too coy about including in the in-tray of new ministers a copy of the Bishop of Oxford's latest book *Is there a Gospel for the Rich?*

Bishop Richard Harries's tone is at times disconcertingly anecdotal. The advanced publicity and title are not a reliable guide to its drift. But there is no greater need in theology and commerce (and in politics) than for a book which tells each world what the other is thinking, and sets them in a historical context. There is no other such book, and Harries's faults of presentation are as nothing to his virtues of comprehensiveness and timeliness.

There is a growth industry in discourse about morality and business, ethics and wealth creation, capitalism and Christianity. The removal of Marxism as a serious intellectual challenge only adds to the need for constructive scrutiny of the moral credentials of capitalism. If it is not going to be done by the left at least it can be done in the name of religion. Two years ago *The Times* contributed to this surge of interest with its own seminar on the subject, sponsored jointly with the Comino Foundation and preceded by a series of three excellent articles in the paper (to which Bishop Harries refers).

On the one hand, those in industry and commerce were groping towards some comprehension of their confused world in the light of moral imperatives, particularly religious ones. On the other, representatives of experts in religion and morality were groping towards some verdict on the activities of industrialists and businessmen more useful (and true) than the old *anathema sit*.

The question whether a rich man can be a Christian, posed by Bishop Harries's title, is the one area of this subject most open to plaudits — of which the disparity between God and Mammon is the most obvious and least illuminating. It is none the less the needle's eye which has to be passed through on the way to an appraisal of the morality of various forms of economic activity. Damning all forms of capitalism as mere selfish greed — a common church attitude which Bishop Harries effectively demolishes — leads only to poverty, central planning or both.

Politicians and economists of the right, assuming that the free market can manage everything, are inclined to neglect the case for an ethical foundation to industry. Businessmen tend to be more aware of the need for some moral legitimisation of wealth creation. Politicians of the left, meanwhile, are at least as much in ignorance, finding it hard to say anything in favour of wealth creation or market forces. To that extent they can be bracketed with the churches against industry and commerce. They too need to be made to examine their moral prejudices.

There is plenty of polemic. What has been lacking is a dispassionate overview, an encyclopaedia of theological writing on economic issues, not neglecting Adam Smith and Karl Marx. Also among the most important sources are the papal encyclicals on Catholic social teaching, upon which there is no adequate English commentary despite the great influence of this tradition inside the European Community. Nor is the wisdom of the Bible on social organisation and economic activity accessible except to experts, despite its great influence in shaping capitalist society in 19th-century Britain and America.

Although he deals with both these sources generously, one odd omission from the Bishop's compilation is a thorough treatment of Archbishop William Temple. Temple is often regarded as a mainstay of the Anglican tradition of "social responsibility", and he was one of the architects of the British welfare state consensus which followed Beveridge. Any assessment of the moral health of a state's socio-economic arrangements cannot ignore the treatment of its citizens' needs and hardships. Because of the Establishment and the church's long tradition of charitable service, Anglicanism has traditionally felt a proprietorial interest in the welfare state, as a manifestation of the Christian nation. And yet the birth of the welfare state represented a moment of transfer, when private charitable foundations believed themselves to be superseded by government.

For such reasons as this, the neglect of Temple in a contemporary review of leading influences is perhaps an implicit acknowledgement that the development of specifically Anglican thinking on socio-ethical issues has not kept up to date. Bishop Harries's contribution needs to be followed up by many more, but it is a good start.

John Grigg says Labour lost because the party has failed to adapt to social change since 1945

Left behind by the voters

Yesterday people were comparing the election result with that of 1970, when Ted Heath's Conservatives came from behind — in the opinion polls, at any rate — to win a clear majority of votes and a workable majority of seats. There is some validity in the comparison, above all in what one might call the Dewey-Truman factor.

The classic American presidential election of 1948 confounded the pollsters by giving Harry S. Truman a wholly unexpected victory over Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York. Throughout the campaign Dewey was regarded — and, fatally, came to regard himself — as a certain winner.

He spoke and acted as though he were already president, while Truman campaigned relentlessly, showing confidence that he would win but never taking victory for granted.

Much the same happened in Britain in 1970. Harold Wilson behaved in a presidential manner throughout the campaign,

hardly referring to Mr Heath and resting on the evidence of the polls which, until the last moment, seemed to point to a certain Labour re-election. Heath bantled on, refusing to believe that his cause was lost.

In the event a Labour majority of about 100 (in 1966) was turned into a Conservative majority of 30.

During the past three weeks, the Labour party has been talking and acting as though it were already the government. There was John Smith's "budget" and his appearance with his shadow colleagues posing on the steps of the Treasury. There was John Cunningham's bland prospectus of the steps the Labour government would take immediately the new Parliament assembled.

Poor Mr Kinnock was forced to act quite out of character, as a

statesman weighing and measuring his words, whereas his special strength is as a fiery and spontaneous orator.

To find the last occasion when a party in power improved its position between the beginning and the end of an election campaign we have to go back to 1951. At that poll, the Labour party under Clement Attlee, which had been in power since 1945, ended with a small majority (a little over 200,000) of the total vote, but through the capricious workings of our electoral system it still lost the election. The Conservatives under Winston Churchill had a small working majority in Parliament — smaller than Mr Major's is now — and they were able to govern with considerable success for four years.

Eighteen months earlier, in February 1950, the majority of 146 that Labour had won in its landslide victory of 1945 had been reduced to an overall majority of only five, rather as the big Conservative majority of 1987 has been cut, though less drastically, in this election.

But Labour hung on then, despite a formidable challenge from a chastened and revitalised Conservative party. And it would probably have hung on through a whole parliament, or have won again in 1951 — in seats as well as votes — had it not been torn apart by Aneurin Bevan's resignation and the beginnings of civil war in the party.

Another disadvantage for Labour was that, unlike Mr Major, Attlee was an ageing and tired leader, who had been in high office since he joined the Churchill coalition in 1940. (By

now feel that they are on the right side of the tracks. Prosperity is widespread, and those who have not yet attained it, or who have temporarily lost it, do not wish to change the conditions in which it can be created and enjoyed. Even if they have not yet achieved it, most people aspire to prosperity, and the Conservative party is therefore the natural party of enough people to provide a parliamentary majority under the existing system.

Just as the Conservatives worked hard after 1945 to live down their 1930s reputation and to improve their image, so the Labour party has worked hard to live down its past and to acquire the image of a party relevant to the 1990s. But it has failed yet again, and a more fundamental reappraisal, together with a long overdue realignment of forces on the left, now seems imperative.

John Grigg is the author of *Lloyd George: The People's Champion* (Methuen).

A day is a long time in politics

After 16 months John Major has a mandate, but his first decisions will be crucial, says Peter Riddell

John Major yesterday at last looked a prime minister at ease with himself. As he strolled along Downing Street chatting to the crowds, he was demonstrating his pride that "I can now accept that the country has elected me in my own right to be prime minister.

A transitional figure for the past 16 months, he was yesterday savouring his own mandate. He has the freedom of manoeuvre previously denied to him as a leader on probation with his party and the country. Mr Major now has as much political power as he will ever have. It will not last long. In the next few days he has the chance to define what a Major government means, in both personnel and policy terms.

In the past such moments of triumph have often been illusory and short-lived. Working majorities are no protection against external pressures or hubris. Harold Wilson's re-elected administration in 1966 soon stumbled into a sterling crisis, while over-confidence led Margaret Thatcher at the start of her third term in 1987 to ignore warnings from her Treasury ministers about the poll tax.

Mr Major is too shrewd a politician to believe that the Tories' success against expectation gives him a blank cheque, but it is a personal vindication against the sniping by both fellow Tories and the media. He can no longer be patronised.

The first test will be the reshuffle of his ministerial team. When he became prime minister, his room for manoeuvre was limited both by his inexperience and by his desire — and obligation — to reward his campaign team. Since then, some ministers have looked tired and lacked political sharpness. The presentation of both economic and health policies has often been deficient.

Mr Major now has the chance

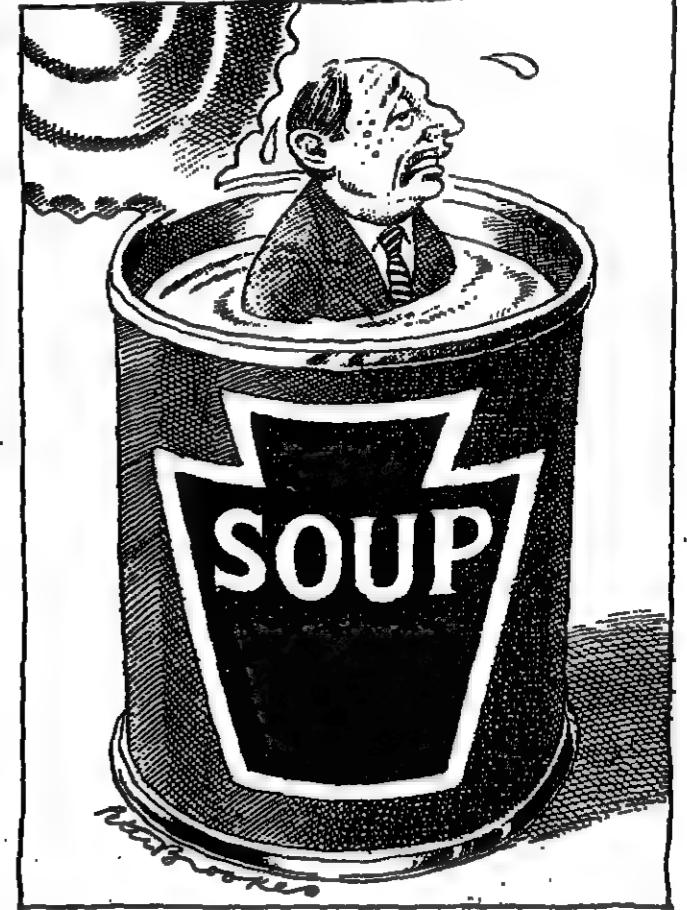
to remedy these weaknesses, to retire long-serving ministers and to fill the gaps left by the defeat of ministers seeking re-election, as well as a chance to change the structure of Whitehall, as promised in the manifesto. Often during the campaign Michael Heseltine looked like a joint deputy prime minister with Douglas Hurd. Now he is likely to have his reward, since, with the Tories re-elected, he is no longer even a potential threat to Mr Major; any question of the Tory leadership is far ahead.

In the Queen's Speech on May 6, Mr Major can define his own programme: broadening incentives and ownership, and spreading the benefits of Thatcherism. We shall see if the Citizen's Charter really can improve public services.

But Mr Major cannot carry on as if nothing has happened in the past month. Opinion polls and comments made on the doorstep were not all wrong. Many voters, especially in the South East, have felt let down because of the recession, the poll tax and standards of public services.

But Mr Major cannot carry on as if nothing has happened in the past month. Opinion polls and comments made on the doorstep were not all wrong. Many voters, especially in the South East, have felt let down because of the recession, the poll tax and standards of public services.

By the time of the next election, the Tories will also have had time to entrench the changes to the health service and education which are now only half completed. Most large hospitals will have become trusts, a majority of general practitioners will have become independent fundholders, and a wave of schools will be seeking grant-maintained status. Compulsory competitive tendering will have been taken much further, both in local and central



majority should be sufficient to see them through at least three years without too many troubles in the Commons. There should be time not only for the economic recovery to begin, but also for the Treasury to take a grip of public finances. The next poll day will no doubt see the economic and political cycles back in line.

By the time of the next election, the Tories will also have had time to entrench the changes to the health service and education which are now only half completed. Most large hospitals will have become trusts, a majority of general practitioners will have become independent fundholders, and a wave of schools will be seeking grant-maintained status. Compulsory competitive tendering will have been taken much further, both in local and central

government, further challenging public sector unions.

Mr Major is also the only head of government in a G7 country who is in a politically strong position. This should strengthen his hand in the British presidency of the European Community, which begins in July — notably in the discussions over the EC's budget and enlargement of membership.

America and European allies will be reassured by the continuation of the Major-Hurd team. Potential splits within the Tory party over the EC which might have arisen in opposition should be avoidable, although by the time of the next election the government will be facing major decisions over economic and monetary union.

In the aftermath of victory, the Tories appear to be not only the natural party of government but

also perhaps the perpetual one, like the Liberal Democrats in Japan. That question was, of course, posed after Labour's loss in 1987, and then looked silly in 1984. But Labour is now starting to run out of excuses. It is no good blaming the bias of the tabloid press. The party has fought stronger campaigns than the Tories in both the last two elections and yet has lost, perhaps showing how unimportant all the presentational devices really are. Mr Kinnock is a liability and will not doubt go after a bruising 8½ years; his achievement has been to rescue Labour from the abyss of 1983.

But that is not a sufficient explanation. If after its far-reaching policy review, and fighting an election during a deep recession, Labour can still not win, then when can it win? It can hardly qualify its commitment to a redistributive approach much further without ceasing to be a democratic socialist party.

Nor is there much evidence that the public is interested in constitutional changes. The Liberal Democrats' stress on hung parliaments may have scared voters back to the Tories this week, and in Scotland the Tories rallied wavering by warning about dangers to the union.

We may not all be Tories now — 57 per cent still support opposition parties — but the message of the election, and Mr Major's opportunity now, is that enough of the public does not want to risk a return to redistributive policies and a collectivist approach. They do not want to sacrifice earlier gains. No wonder Mrs Thatcher looked pleased in the early hours of yesterday. Her legacy will be safeguarded.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there. We cannot recapture time past, though it is the job of writers and historians and film-makers and playwrights to try. Sometimes they succeed marvellously in putting new flesh on old bones. *Hamlet* is a contemporary story of everyday screwed-up folk, even though it is unconvincing on the details of court etiquette in Elsinore in the Dark Ages. It did not destroy the dying fall of Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* that his butler hero got butlering activities wrong and went around filling up glasses with port after dinner.

Faws in dating — making Anglo-Saxons eat potatoes or Old King Cole smoke a pipe — are called anachronisms, referring something backwards to the wrong time. They have never much bothered creative artists.

Cecil B. De Mille Was feeling ill Because he couldn't put Moses in the Wars of the Roses.

The *Camomile Lawn* on television proved a happy hunting ground for anachronistic nit-pickers. Private soldiers in uniform were not allowed to dine in the smarter London restaurants of the period. The air-raid warning evidently never sounded like that. The problem with the screenplay was that unlike the book, it lacked charm.

It would have been an anachronism for Cleopatra's barge to have been depicted as powered by an outboard motor. The word comes from the Greek ana-

chronos, out of time, something late or backward in timing, and means an error in chronology, putting a person, event or period in the wrong period. Shakespeare did not power Cleopatra's barge with an outboard, perhaps because it was not in his excellent source, *Plutarch*, done into French by Thomas North. But Shakespeare was a master anachronist. In *Henry IV*, just before Falstaff is set upon by the swelling mob of rogues in buckram, the first carrier exclaims: "God's body, the turkeys in my pannier are quite starved. The turkey has been partially domesticated by the Indians before the official European discovery of North America in 1492, but the silly birds were not imported into Spain before 1519. They were fashionable delicacies when *Henry IV* was written in 1597, but not when *Henry IV* died in the Jerusalem Chamber in 1413. Anachronism.

In *Julius Caesar*, Brutus says to Cassius: "Peace! Count the clock." To which Cassius replies: "The clock has struck three." Clocks were not known to the Romans, and striking-clocks were not invented until some 1,400 years after the death of Caesar. Shakespeare brought caution into *King John*, introducing them into a rude age where the only missile weapons were bows and arrows.

In *Antony and Cleopatra* Cleopatra says to her girl: "Let it alone. Let's to billiards. Come, I

No room on the board?

THE EIGHT government ministers and 37 other Tory MPs ejected from the cosy Commons coterie will find cold comfort in the job market outside the Palace of Westminster. Despite hopes of fast economic recovery, leading professional recruitment agencies say failed parliamentarians are difficult to employ at the best of times.

This will be particularly frustrating for retiring Tories who have been forced to recognise since 1979 that captains of industry and chairmen of banking houses can no longer get by with just a colourfull school tie.

The private sector is now a meritocracy, and there is no room for inexperience," says John Courtis, a senior recruitment consultant. "The members of parliament who have the most chance are those who have had jobs before. Their stints in the House of Commons are rarely considered to be of merit in today's Britain."

Nevertheless, as in the past, certain companies may offer grace and favour directorships to MPs whose names would grace the company letterhead.

Chris Patten, one presumes, is planning a fast return to the Tory husband and wife teams, the Bottomleys and the Wintons. Bridget and Gordon Prentice both triumphed in previously Tory-held seats. But their victories may lead to divided loyalties.

Bridget, 39, won Lewisham East from Colin Moynihan, while Gordon, 41, was elected Pendle, 230 miles away. "Most MPs see their partners only at weekends," says Gordon. "It will be the other way round for us. We will see each other at parliament and our house in Lewisham will be our base in the week." Mrs Prentice plans to join her husband at weekends in

Pendle whenever her political diary permits. Married for 17 years, the couple began their careers with the same London authority. Indeed they could not imagine working apart. "I sometimes borrow Bridget's speeches and she has been known to steal some of my lines. We will have to stop that now Parliament is televised," says Gordon.

Brilliant
AS Conservative Central Office celebrated its election victory yesterday, only one thing was missing: John Major's soapbox. "I think it is still knocking around the back of the battle bus," admitted one party official. It will be rescued. Staff want the box

advertising agency, has even expressed an interest in using it as a prop in its presentations of political strategy.

Most likely, though, the famous item will be presented as a souvenir to John Major, wrapped in a blue ribbon of course. "I think he will want it. We all became very attached to it in a funny sort of way. There is no way that box will ever be a humble packing case again," said the official.

Snow effect

EVEN in distant Russia, there was no escaping the election. In the appropriately named "dive bar" — the social centre of the Moscow mission, tucked in the embassy garden — a sizeable number of Britons followed the election results minute by minute via a satellite link with London. In a country where such all-night events have only recently become *de rigueur*, this was undoubtedly a first for embassy folk.

The three-hour time difference meant that results first flooded in between 4 and 5 am local time, making for some rather bleary-eyed diplomacy yesterday. For those left sipping coffee and watching Peter Snow and the BBC's swingometer at 6 am, the only reminder that this was Moscow came when it was time to leave. It was snowing.

If Chris Patten does stand for Parliament in a safe Tory seat, his opponents will no doubt seize gleefully upon these carefully chosen words of his from April 1988: "When you represent Bath you represent a real place — not an anonymous slab of suburbia. What I know," he continued in *The Bath Evening Chronicle*, "is that I shall only ever be the MP for Bath. No Plumshire North for me."

which originally came from the campaign department, to become a museum-piece. The idea is that the box should be placed on a plinth in the Central Office research department as a permanent reminder of the advice the department issued to the premier during his campaign. Other party apparatchiks favour putting it in the bookshop at central office. Sanchi & Starchi, the Tories

now feel that they are on the right side of the tracks. Prosperity is widespread, and those who have not yet attained it, or who have temporarily lost it, do not wish to change the conditions in which it can be created and enjoyed. Even if they have not yet achieved it, most people aspire to

coming
ages

OBITUARIES

GÜNTHER ZUNTZ

Günther Zuntz, emeritus professor of Hellenistic Greek at the University of Manchester, died on April 3 aged 90. He was born on January 28, 1902.

GÜNTHER Zuntz was one of the youngest of that group of émigrés of Jewish descent who were forced to leave Germany in the 1930s and who did so much to professionalise British classical scholarship. His most important contributions to learning were in the fields of Greek tragedy, Greek religion, and the textual criticism of the Greek New Testament.

Zuntz was educated at the Bismarck Gymnasium in Berlin, and at the universities of Berlin, Marburg, Göttingen, and Graz. He was a pupil of, among others, such eminent scholars as Wiliamowitz and Eduard Fraenkel. He held no university posts in Germany, becoming a gymnasium teacher.

He left Germany in 1935, working for four years on Byzantine music for the *Monumenta Musicae Byzantinae* in Copenhagen. The fruit of this work was the publication (with C. Hoeg) of *Prophetologium* (1939-71). Like many other émigrés he spent the war years in Oxford, becoming librarian of Mans-



field College in 1944. In 1947 he was appointed senior lecturer in Hellenistic Greek at Manchester; he became a reader in 1955 and was elected a fellow of the British Academy in the following year. It was not until 1963 that the university saw fit to appoint him to a personal chair, while lesser men occupied the Hulme Chairs of Greek and Latin. In his forty years at Manchester one of his colleagues was another émigré, the Latinist Otto Skutsch.

Zuntz's appointment at Manchester was divided between the department of Greek and the faculty of theology. One of his duties was the teaching of elementary Greek to theology students, a task he performed with en-

thusiasm. He hoped to publish a text book based on his course, but no British publisher was interested. After his retirement, however, he was able to develop a German version of the course, and use it at the University of Tübingen. The text-book (in three volumes) appeared in 1963 as *Griechische Litteratur* (an English translation is imminent). Zuntz wrote in the preface that he regarded it as more important to provide an access to Greek antiquity than to write learned books about it; otherwise there would soon be nobody to read such books.

In the 1950s Zuntz turned his attention to Euripides, publishing *The Political Plays of Euripides* in 1955. The book is, in fact, concerned only with the *Suppliæ* and the *Heracidae*, and, despite the title, Zuntz argued that Euripides was not concerned to make political propaganda. Rather, in his view, the plays as a whole were designed to have an impact on their audiences in the circumstances of the times they were performed. His belief that the two tragedies were great plays did not, unsurprisingly, command universal assent.

Ten years later came *An Enquiry into the Transmission of the Plays of Euripides*, which showed Zuntz at his best. By the most detailed study of a 14th-century manuscript in the Medicean Library at Florence he showed that a second manuscript of slightly later date was a copy, not a twin, of the first manuscript. He established that a corrector, already identified as Demetrius Triclinius, annotated the manuscript on three separate occasions, and that the copy was made after only the first set of corrections had been entered.

Two years after his retirement Zuntz published *Persephone*, a large book dealing with three separate but interrelated topics — the evidence for the cult of the great goddess in Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta, the fragments of Empedocles's *Katharmoi*, and the "Orphic" gold leaves now preserved in London and Naples — relics from the ancient world containing religious verses. The Hellenist Walter Burkert described it as "a rich, an astonishing book".

Zuntz continued to write in his eighties, publishing short works on Greek mead and on a puzzling inscription from Eleusis dedicating a statue of the Greek god Alon for the power of Rome and the permanence of the Eleusinian mysteries.

He married, in 1947, Mary Alyson Garrett. They had two sons and a daughter.

BASIL GARNONS WILLIAMS followed a distinguished line of headmasters at Berkhamsted School, whose most famous old boy, the late novelist Graham Greene, was unhappy educated by one of them — his own father Charles Henry Greene (1911-27).

Garnons Williams was a tall bespectacled Welshman whose regime as headmaster lasted from 1953 to 1972, an unusually long spell in those times. It enabled a period of great stability and expansion. At Berkhamsted he confronted huge problems and dealt with them in a courageous, rational and sensitive manner. New buildings were raised and the chapel was embellished by the addition of a gallery to complete the architect's original design. The cost of these projects was mostly borne by the generosity of benefactors; but it was Garnons Williams who attracted their gifts to the school.

More important than buildings were the school's achievements in learning and in sport. Numbers in the school only rose from 600 to 744, but significantly they doubled in the sixth form: awards at Oxford and Cambridge gained new heights.

Although he was himself no games-player, Garnons Williams was born into a Brembeshire family with strong traditions of service in the church. He was a classical scholar at Winchester and at Hereford College, Oxford; and his scholarly aptitude and his love for the

Konstantin Sergeyev, Russian dancer and choreographer, died in St Petersburg on April 1 aged 82. He was born in the same city on February 20, 1910.

ACKNOWLEDGED in the 1930s as a dancer-actor of exceptional power, Konstantin Sergeyev later became director of the Kirov Ballet. He upheld the traditions of the classic dance as he inherited it from his illustrious predecessors: in his stagings as in his performances he guarded and enhanced the academic disciplines that lie at the heart of the Kirov Ballet's greatness.

Konstantin Michailovich Sergeyev started his dance studies at the Leningrad ballet school in 1924, and he proved so receptive and able a pupil that before graduating he had taken part in an extended tour of Russia with a ballet ensemble organised by Joseph Kshesinsky. His gifts of elegant style and technical bravura won him principal roles in the troupe, but in 1929 he returned to Leningrad to complete his schooling, and on graduation joined the ballet company at the Maryinsky Theatre.

In his performances during the 1930s his nobility of manner and impeccable stage presence were matched by a quest for dramatic verities in every role. Much of the repertory then being created in Leningrad provided ideal roles for Sergeyev as hero. He was the Romeo to Ulanova's Juliet in Lavrovsky's production and played the leads in Zakharov's *Fountain of Bakhchisarai, Lost Illusions* (after the Balzac novel) and *The Bronze Horseman*, based on the poem by Pushkin.

In the traditional classics he brought a searching intelligence to the portrayal of those often two-dimensional princesses who sustain the ballerina. Sergeyev expanded and ennobled the heroes of the old



Konstantin Sergeyev with his wife Natalia Dudinskaya in *Giselle*

ballets, seeking to expose the psychology of their actions and the dance expression of their personalities. As Albrecht in *Giselle* and Siegfried in *Swan Lake* he was notably influential in establishing character and technical style, and he further set a magnificent example in the sensitivity and sympathy of his partnering. Grateful ballerinas have rewarded the security and accord which they felt in dancing with him. He played these classical roles from the age of 18 until he was 50 — an exceptionally long span.

Sergeyev turned to choreography for the Kirov Ballet in 1946 with the first Leningrad staging of Prokofiev's *Cinderella*. This was one of the works the company brought to London and it was successfully revived in St Petersburg last year for the Prokofiev centenary. He created

further works in the correct socialist-realist style of the period with *Path of Thunder* and *The Distant Planet*. As a choreographer Sergeyev was content with the classic academic language. His recensions of the classics — *Raymonda*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake* — were probably his most lasting contribution to the ballet repertoire. The two Tchaikovskys were filmed. Sergeyev was twice director of the Kirov Ballet, 1951-56 and 1960-70, his periods of service marked by "political" upheavals, not least with the decisions of Nureyev and Makarova to remain in the West. But it was under his guidance that the Kirov Ballet made its first revelatory visits to the West, and the magnificence qualities of the ensemble and its stars, testimony to a uniquely beautiful classic training, were tribute

to his distinction as leader of the ballerina.

When he quit the direction of the ballet in 1970, Sergeyev continued to serve the company and school, acting as a member of the theatre's executive and as artistic director of the Vaganova School, where his wife, the ballerina Natalia Dudinskaya, was a principal teacher. Their joint careers, from the dazzling days of their theatrical partnership to the years in which they guided and shaped the destinies of Leningrad's dancers, were of real significance in the history of the Kirov Ballet. Their son Nicola also became a dancer.

Sergeyev was made a People's Artist of the Russian Republic in 1957, won three Stalin prizes and a Lenin prize and last year was given the distinction, Hero of Socialist Labour.

ANDONIS TRITSIS

Andonis Tritsis, mayor of Athens, town-planner, politician and athlete, died on April 7 aged 55. He was born on the Ionian island of Cephalonia in 1937.

ANDONIS Tritsis exemplified the qualities of the type of man the Greeks like to call a "levendis" — the blend of panache, quixotism and essential honesty that defies the practicalities of modern Greek politics. When he suffered a massive stroke that left him languishing at the mercy of a life-support machine for nine days before his death, it suddenly became clear that his sympathisers from all walks of life and political creeds by far outnumbered the many critics he had had to confront throughout his political and eventful public career.

He was elected mayor of Athens in a closely run municipal contest in 1990, defeating Melina Mercouri, the actress and former minister of culture. He was an outcast from the Socialist party when he stood as an independent candidate. He won, thanks to the active support of the main conservative party, New Democracy.

He took office on January 1, 1991, but his performance was cramped by the fact the powers of the mayor's office were minimal compared to those he had enjoyed a decade earlier as a cabinet minister. Also, some of his initiatives, such as visiting Baghdad during the Gulf War bombings in a show of municipal solidarity, left him open to sharp criticism from his sponsors.

A former decathlon champion of Greece, Tritsis studied architecture at the Athens Polytechnic University. Thanks to a double Fulbright scholarship, he obtained a doctorate in town planning from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1963. He taught there briefly before returning to Athens where he was appointed lecturer at the Panepistimio Graduate School in 1969. At that time he joined the resistance organisation set up to be opposed to the military dictatorship that held power in Greece. When the ruling junta fell in 1974, he joined Papandreu's new party, the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), but he gradually became disenchanted with the direction in which his party was

headed.

In 1989, in a bold move rare for a leading member of the well-disciplined PASOK, he abstained during an opposition no-confidence vote in parliament. He was promptly expelled from PASOK a few weeks before the Socialists eventually lost power. Within two months Tritsis had set up his own party, the Greek Radical Movement. In the general elections that followed in June, he secured minimal support. Undaunted, he put up his candidature for mayor of Athens in October.

At the time of his death, he was immersed in discussions on the financing of his pet project, a tram-line that should, one day, take passengers across a traffic-free archaeological park in the centre of the city. Visionary or dreamer, Andonis Tritsis left his mark more by dint of style than accomplishment.

April 11 ON THIS DAY 1940

1940

widened by her season of joint management with Forbes-Robertson at the Lyceum Theatre, where she played Juliet, Mimi in John Davidson's *For the Crown*, Magda, Lady Teazie, Ophelia, Lady Macbeth and Mrs Tanqueray.

Among other good performances in the 1940s were her part in *Rat* (in a production of *Ubu Roi* in 1940), and in *John Davidson's For the Crown*, Magda, Lady Teazie, Ophelia, Lady Macbeth and Mrs Tanqueray.

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BASIL GARNONS WILLIAMS

Raymond emerged; so did Sir Peter Quennell, Claud Cockburn, Professor Sir Colin Buchanan and Lord Fiske. These were Berkhamsted's golden years.

Garnons Williams had his own share of successors but it is still too early to decide on eminence. Richard Mealey, the country-side author, certainly maintains the school's literary traditions. Robin Knox-Johnston and Michael Meacher were two others who came under him.

His retirement was marked by the long and painful illness of his wife, Marghi, who bore it with great courage. He looked after her with total devotion. Yet, under this strain, he completed two deservedly acclaimed histories of Berkhamsted School, of Berkhamsted School itself and of Berkhamsted School for Girls.

In recent years he returned to live at the scene of his educational supremacy, later in a council old folks home. He was a familiar sight in Berkhamsted high street, tapping along with his white stick as blindness took over.

Brash present-day pupils of his old school brushed past him unaware of the significant role he had once played in their school.

But perhaps the saddest moment was when someone stopped to ask him if he had seen his name in Graham Greene's official biography. "I'm afraid I cannot read," said the classical scholar sadly.

Headmasters at Berkhamsted may claim to have moulded their school's future distinguished alumni. Under Charles Greene the three Greene brothers, Graham, Sir Hugh and Doctor

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The good life begins with the age of contentment

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DON'T tell the young, but the best years of life belong to the elderly, according to a team of psychologists.

The popular vision of old age as a time of weariness and decline is based on a mistaken view of the values that older people hold. Research presented to the British Psychological Society's annual conference in Scarborough yesterday shows that elderly people are more satisfied with their lives than the young when assessed against what they themselves judge important. They rate themselves as less happy, but count happiness as a trivial emotion of small consequence.

The research, by John Browne and colleagues of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, found that people's values change as they age. Relationships and feelings are the things that matter in youth. Elderly people are more concerned with the state of their homes, social activities and religion.

But, the doctors say, most surveys miss the enjoyment that many people find in old age because they make assumptions, which most elderly do not share, about the quality of life. Questions about how often people see friends and relatives, for example, assume that more frequent meetings mean greater satisfaction. But some old people prefer to keep their own company.

Similar yardsticks of income, work or sexual activity are irrelevant to many, yet they contribute to the dismal vision of ageing as a period of inevitable decline. But when quality of life is assessed on what old people themselves say is important, a different

picture emerges. The study of 60 people with an average age of 73 and 42 people with an average age of 29, showed that the young were concerned with work, money and friendships, while the elderly ignored those areas in favour of religion, leisure activities and living conditions. On that basis, the elderly rated their lives more satisfactory.

"We are not saying their objective circumstances are better, but their subjective experiences are more positive than the negative stereotypes would have you believe," Mr Browne said. "Their concerns have changed. When you are younger you constantly worry about what you are going to achieve," he said. "Older people base their judgements about satisfaction on what they have achieved."

The study concludes there is no such thing as the good life — only good lives.

□ Enormous changes in the pattern of family life over the last 20 years appear to have had no impact on children's perceptions of the traditional family unit, according to another study presented to the conference.

In spite of the increase in divorce, the rise in one-parent families and the growth in mothers going out to work, young children persist in picturing fathers mending the car or playing with the computer while mother does the cooking.

Margaret O'Brien, of the Polytechnic of East London, asked 75 children aged 5 to 11 to talk about their families and draw pictures. Fathers were mentioned first in stories and mothers were more often associated with domestic chores.



Windows of opportunity: As dawn breaks over Conservative Central Office in London's Smith Square, every available vantage point is taken by flag-waving party workers eager to welcome their triumphant leader home from the battle

Major plans reshuffle today

Continued from page 1

day that he could not say when the country would come out of recession but the election victory had been a necessary precursor of recovery.

After Labour had highlighted the National Health Service during the election campaign, Mr Major made a point of saying that his government would "continue to build up and cherish the NHS", reaffirming his commitment that it would not be privatised while he was in Downing Street.

The opinion pollsters, meanwhile, admitted their biggest embarrassment in years. In their final surveys before the election none had come anywhere near the 8 per cent lead achieved by the

Conservatives. Nick Moon, the political research director for NOP, said the election was the worst result for pollsters since polling began.

"It's a very big embarrassment, no doubt about that," he said. "One possibility was that we were polling in the wrong places."

As the inquests began over Labour's performance Mr Kinnock's senior colleagues were anxious to give their leader time to make his own decisions about his political future. All acknowledged the his immense contribution to Labour's recovery, but many privately acknowledge that the party will not win an election while he is in charge.

Labour issued a warning yesterday about a potential

crisis in Scottish politics claiming that the Conservatives had received no election mandate to rule in Scotland. Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, urged the government not to "try the patience of Scotland beyond breaking point" and promised that Labour would press for constitutional change with renewed urgency. Speaking in Glasgow, Mr Dewar dismissed suggestions that tensions within the party could lead to a breakaway by the Scottish wing.

Election 92, pages 2-8
Peter Riddell, page 16
Diary, page 16
Leading articles and letters, page 17
Photograph, page 20

The country's electors let the pollsters down

Continued from page 1

would. It was their rather private little way of saying how cross they were with the government, not of changing it. But then Neil goes and organises a massive victory circus in Sheffield, with balloons — before polling day. This gave the electorate a fright. The Labour leader should have stuck to hospital visits, the plumed horses were a mistake.

In an important sense this time, the country has let the pollsters down. If we pundits are to do our job properly, we need the co-operation of the electorate and the politicians next time. Someone must impress upon the voters the importance of not changing

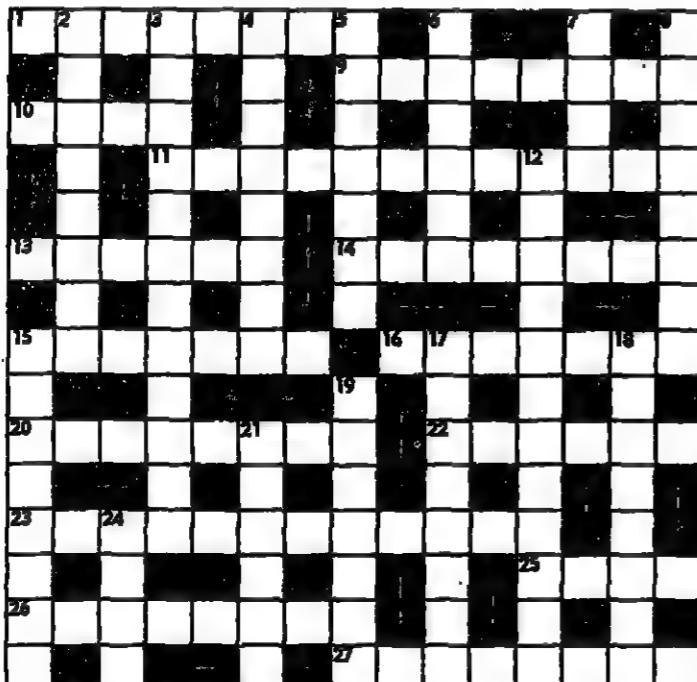
their minds after they have spoken to polling organisations. To do this so fast and so late in the campaign was unwise.

And someone should explain to the Labour party that if it wants to win an election — then — once it becomes confident in it — it is vital not to communicate this confidence to the voters.

I have reviewed the disparities between what we pundits said and what you voters did. I have regrettably concluded that you do not deserve us. You have proved a great embarrassment.

Ivor Crewe, page 5
Bob Worcester election supplement, page 11

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,890

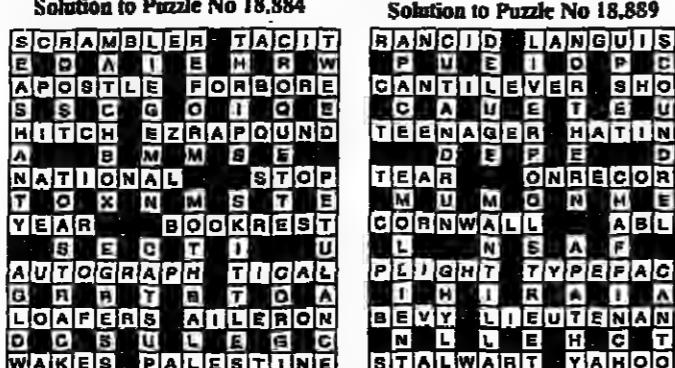


ACROSS
1 Prevented from flying, like rooks (8).
9 Write off for a sort of lock (8).
10 Lover's knot, say (4).
11 Commanding position taken just before game's decided (7).
13 Sophisticated opening of essay on Pope (6).
14 Aware it's prudent (8).
15 Inside pitcher is hidden treasure (7).
16 Make last car trip abroad (4).
20 Victim of street fighting sorted out crime (8).
22 Always having inside information about this business (6).
23 Mediator finding her rent-books out of order (6).
25 Looking very black for two of Ohio's neighbours (4).
26 Given up, in ironbound state (8).
27 About to name, on oath, English outlaw (8).

DOWN
2 Span requiring extra cunning (8).

Concise Crossword, page 38
Weekend Times

Solution to Puzzle No 18,884



Solution to Puzzle No 18,889

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Rebirth of a river



Many of our most famous waters are dying as decades of abstraction and pollution take their toll. **Robin Young** reports on a project to rescue the historic River Ver

Michael Drayton, the Tudor poet, described the River Ver in Hertfordshire as "a famous ancient flood" navigable by "great burthened ships". Drayton, no doubt, took full benefit of poetic licence, but it is an undoubted fact that the Ver, a tributary of the Colne, which runs eventually into the Thames, once powered 11 watermills and supported a Hertfordshire watercress industry with a score of lush green cress beds spread through its valley.

Now you look in vain for the Ver where it used to rise at Flamstead. There the short-lived rivulet down part of the watercourse consists entirely of effluent from a sewage treatment works, and even that peters out in a damp ditch after running only a couple of hundred yards.

In many places along the Ver, the river bed is completely dry and has been for months; the winterbourne reach starting from Kensworth Lynch water has not flowed since 1987.

All the Ver's upper reaches are reduced, at best, to an intermittent trickle. At River Hill, Flamstead, the ford used to be 30ft wide and 4ft deep. Now the stream there is 18in wide and 4in deep. At Friars Wash as recently as 1953 the local point-to-point had water jumps across the river 6-8ft wide. Today there is no water.

The Ver is only one of southern Britain's dying rivers. From the Wallop Brook in Hampshire to the Little Ouse in the Fens, streams whose names evoke the well-watered countryside of times past are drying up and disappearing. Like the Pang in Berkshire, the Wey in Hampshire, the Chess and the Mole in Buckinghamshire, the Darent between Sevenoaks and Dartford in Kent, and many, many more, the Ver, which passes through Verulam Park in St Albans, is on the danger list.

This week, launching the Royal Society for Nature Conservation's Water for Wildlife campaign, Sir David Attenborough drew particular attention to the plight of the Ver. "Even if it rained from now till October more heavily than it has ever rained in recorded time," he said, "the Ver would not get enough water to enable it to flow properly. Where there were once kingfishers, bulrushes and reeds there is now dry parched land."

As he was speaking it was raining. At Shafford Mill the glistening rainwater on the dried bed of the millpond attracted two swans back to their former home. They paddled briefly and disconsolately on the rain-softened surface before flying away again, leaving only their footprints in the mud.

Sir David warned that native British plants such as cuckoo flower, snakeshead fritillary and bog rosemary could be lost forever, and once common birds such as the lapwing and snipe are threatened by their wetland habitats dry up.

And now, in the very park that carries the ancient name of Verulamum, which the Ver donated to St Albans, the river is already on a life-support system. The

carefully embanked water by which the townspersons walk to feed the park's ducks and swans comes most of the time not from springs, but from the pumped and piped supplies of Lee Valley Water in "compensation" for water the company has taken from higher up the Ver valley, where its Friars Wash station pumps ground water to the Vauxhall factories in Luton.

A waterflow gauging station has been installed on the lower Ver at Hantshead Weir, near the confluence with the Colne at Bricket Wood. When the flow there drops below 3 million gallons for three consecutive days, the "compensation water" tap is opened at St Michael's Bridge in St Albans, just below Kingsbury Mill, which was mentioned in Domesday and is now a watermill museum.

The object of compensation is to maintain the level of the park's stream and lakes, but even with the supplementary piped water the flow is sluggish and not sufficient to keep the water adequately oxygenated for fish to live long. Recently the compensation tap has been running virtually non-stop.

Last week, immediately above St Michael's Bridge and the piped water inlet there was not enough water to float a paper boat, let alone turn Kingsbury's historic water-wheel. Downstream from the park things are not much better. At Friars Wash, where legend had it that King Arthur's father, Uther Pendragon, bathed to heal his wounds, is no longer a miraculous spring but another pumping station. Opposite, in front of the Duke of Marlborough pub, where there should be a pond, there is an expanse of mud decorated with empty lager cans.

The Ver is in the area worst affected by recent years of drought. There has been a hosepipe ban in the area served by the Three Valleys Water Services (whose subsidiaries include Lee Valley) for the past two years. In the Thames Water region half the entire rainfall has to be recycled to maintain water supplies.

The Ver was almost extinct long before the present drought. The Ver Valley Society has been campaigning to save the river since 1976, when it was formed to help create a riverside walk as part of the celebrations to mark the Queen's silver jubilee. That was also the drought year in which the stream dried up. In the Thirties Water region

average annual recharge of the chalk in the 130 square kilometres of the river Ver catchment area has to be taken for public water supplies.

The river Ver has suffered increasingly from the extent of ground-water pumping over the past 30 years," Alan Cornett, the NRA's spokesman, says. "Abstractions were authorised by Act of Parliament many years ago, before licensing began in 1965. Today the NRA would not grant such licences."

Today the problem is aggravated severely because Hertfordshire has not been getting anything like the average annual rainfall, or even the 70 percent of it which is required to keep pace with the public's water needs.

Lee Valley Water's managing director, Jim McGowen, says: "We live in an area currently facing one of the worst droughts in living memory. In the last two years we have had only six months of average or above average rainfall. This winter has been even drier."

The consequences are plain to

see. "I taught my son to swim here when he was four," Judy Green says, eyeing the 9in stream in her garden at Dohol Lodge, Sopwell.

"An adult could not stand up in the stream in winter, it was so fast," John, her husband, adds.

The couple have built extra steps down to reach the water that remains. Across the road, the flow that once turned the wheel at Sopwell Mill for papermaking in the 17th century and corn-grinding in the 19th is not even sufficient to clear away the burgeoning green cloak of blanket weed that has arrived with the spring. Sopwell's millrace has become a clogged and stagnant trench, a receptacle for litter and a haven for vermin, which regularly has to be dredged by the public health authorities.

Mrs Green is the VVS's bailiff organiser, in charge of a dozen volunteers who carry out monthly inspections of lengths of the river to report on its depth and flow (if any) and visible effects on the local ecology.

There are still moorhens and occasionally mallards at the bottom

of her garden, but the last kingfisher gave up six months ago. Where once there were brown trout, predominantly stillwater fish such as sticklebacks and bullheads are now struggling to survive.

At Shafford Mill, until recently a good nesting site for dabchicks and tufted duck, a large painted sign warns: "Bathing and Fishing Prohibited". It stands redundant above an empty millpond where the mud has dried and cracked.

David Scott, the VVS's vice-chairman says: "They took the last dozen trout out of the puddle under the mill in February. They were all dead."

Originally the old Tharnes Water Authority wanted to tackle the Ver's low-flow problem by sinking yet another borehole just upstream of the confluence, and piping the water from there back up to the riverhead to flow down again with three augmentation points on the way.

Such a scheme would have cost £6 million, and the VVS opposed it

as a "garden fountain" plan which would do nothing to correct the lowered water table.

The NRA has now agreed to implement a scheme to save the Ver devised by Dr Ted Hollis, a hydrologist from University College, London, and a VVS member.

At a cost of £2.5 million new pipelines will be installed to bring water to Luton and Dunstable from the Grahams reservoir near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Instead of from the Ver catchment, Friars Wash pumping station will in future only be used when no other source is available, to top-up supplies during times of peak demand and emergencies.

Giles Phillips, the NRA's catchment control manager, says: "This will allow the water table to rise in the underground chalk, securing the flow in the river Ver and, over a period of time, returning it to the currently dried-up sections."

Co-operation, not confrontation, has been the way forward to this compromise solution, Peggy Pollok, the VVS chairman, says: "but we were clear that what we wanted was not just water running down the river bed. We want to see the water table and the wetland habitats of springs, ponds and wet meadows that are part of our heritage, fully restored and preserved".

There used to be kingfishers and kingfishers at Flamstead, and irises, bulrushes, osier beds and iris meadows lower down. Snipe, rare visitors lately, were once common and other waders, such as sandpipers and redshanks, were regularly seen.

The village of Redbourn formerly had a natural marsh, known as

the Moor, for its centrepiece. Old postcards show children fishing with rod and line.

The Red, a tributary of the Ver, took its name from the reeds that for centuries lined its course. These days it is little more than a ditch which occasionally flows with road surface water.

Still, hope, if not water, springs eternal. Down near the Ver's confluence with the Colne, where a depth gauge at present stands pointlessly on dry land, a newly arrived landowner is talking of schemes to reintroduce otters, and at Redbournbury, where the only water is a stranded pond, new owners are planning to restore their watermill to working order and to use it to grind flour.

When the Ver had a winterbourne at its head, the superstitious was that the bourn would flow once every seven years. Now at Kensworth Lynch, where the bourn should start, there is barely enough water to fill a garden pond.

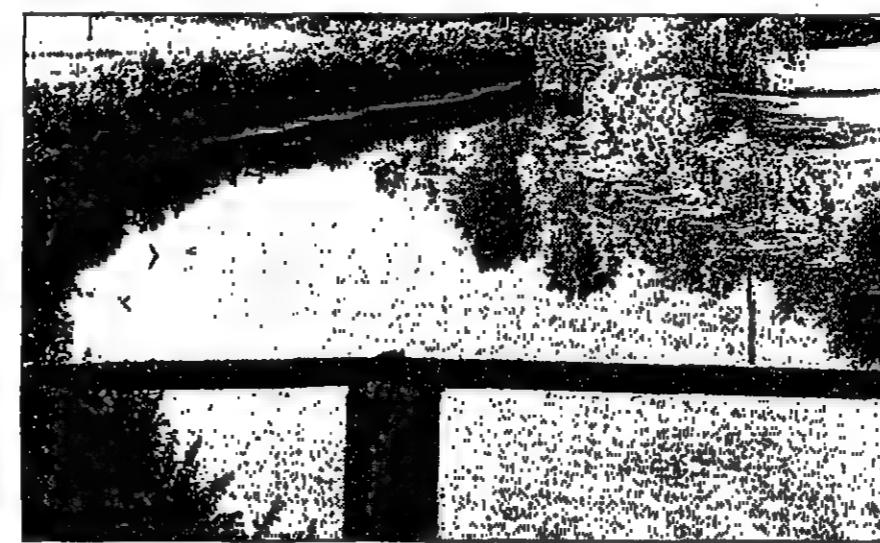
The manor house at Markgate Cell, used in the Margaret Lockwood film *The Wicked Lady*, has lost its lake. Wells, which used to indicate the level of the water table, have been dry for years. The bourn last flowed after exceptionally heavy rains in 1987, so by the old rule of thumb it should be back in 1994.

Local legend has it that when the bourn did flow it would presage some great calamity. For that reason the intermittent flow from Kensworth Lynch was referred to as "the woe-water".

Come back, woe-water. All is forgiven. Contrary to the old nickname, there would be great joy if it ever flowed again.



STEPHEN MARKSON



As time goes by: the once-fine Ver (above left) is now a trickle (right). Top, today at Shafford Mill a "Bathing and Fishing Prohibited" sign overlooks the empty millpond



J.M. ANDERSON/VER VALLEY SOCIETY

EASTER TREATS PAGES 30,31	100 excellent reasons why you should take the children out into the spring sunshine this Easter	CHARLES I 1642 MEMENTO PAGE 37	Your chance to buy our limited edition coin to mark the 350th anniversary of the Civil War
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FILM

LA BELLE NOISEUSE (15): Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin. *Chelsea* (071-351 3742/3743). *Reino* (071-837 8402).

LA BELLE NOISEUSE — DIVERTIMENTO (18): Fascinating two-hour digest of Jacques Rivette's epic about the painter, his model and an unfinished canvas. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart. *Mimosa* (071-235 4225).

BUGS (18): Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek, witty, dazzling to behold. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson. *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034). *MGM Chelsea* (071-352 5096). *MGM Haymarket* (071-839 1527). *Odeon: Kensington* (0426 914666). *Mezzanine* (0426 915685). *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

CAPE FEAR (18): Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Robert De Niro, Jessica Lange. *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034). *MGM Chelsea* (071-352 5096). *MGM Haymarket* (071-839 1527). *Odeon: Kensington* (0426 914666). *Mezzanine* (0426 915685). *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

KILLERS (18): Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Robert De Niro, Jessica Lange. *Camden Parkway* (071-267 7034). *MGM Chelsea* (071-352 5096). *MGM Haymarket* (071-839 1527). *Odeon: Kensington* (0426 914666). *Mezzanine* (0426 915685). *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

THE DOCTOR (12): Callous surgeon (William Hurt) goes under the knife and becomes a new person. Directed, Ronin Hall. *Reino* (071-352 5091). *MGM Chelsea* (071-352 5096). *MGM Tottenham Court Road* (071-536 6148). *Odeon: Kensington* (0426 914666). *Odeon: West End* (071-915574). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VÉRONIQUE (15): Krystof Kielowski's superbly limned courtroom about two girls (one Polish, one French) who seem to share a life. With Irène Jacob, Philippe Voletti. *Curzon Mayfair* (071-465 8865).

FINAL ANALYSIS (15): Psychiatrist Richard Gere falls for a patient's sister (Kim Basinger) and gets more than he bargained for. Overwrought melodrama; on the Green (071-226 3520).

EVENINGS OUT

POLLY DEVLIN

AUTHOR



The amazing theatre group, Théâtre de Complicité, is doing *A Winter's Tale* at the Lyric Hammersmith. It's a fascinating play, and the set designer, Ariane Gastambide, decorated my children's bedrooms, so it's an added bonus that someone whose work I really admire is doing the sets.

Apparently *The Double Life of Véronique* is the most marvellous movie. Irène Jacob is a brilliant actress and the Polish director Kielowski is a great film-maker. I'm also going to see *Barton Fink*. I think the Coen brothers are geniuses. Everyone says how empty their films are, but I don't care. If you can film and cut like that you can be as empty as you like. 9

director, Phil Joanou. *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636). *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310). *MGM Shepherds Bush Avenue* (071-836 6279/3797). *MGM Trocadero* (071-434 0031). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

RED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (12): Heart-warming lives of feisty folks down South. With Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson; director, Jon Avnet. *Odeon: Haymarket* (0426 915353). *Kensington* (0426 914666). *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

HIGH HEELS (18): Lukewarm, talkative melodrama of family secrets from Spain's master of camp, Pedro Almodóvar. With Victoria Abril, Marisa Paredes. *Globe* (071-727 4043). *Lumière* (071-436 0851). *Miramax Chelsea* (071-352 5096). *Screen on Baker Street* (071-935 2772). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

THE COTTON CLUB: An Impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story freshness. Choreographed, directed and staged by Billy Wilson. *Alldwyn, The Aldwych*, WC2 (071-836 6404). *Odeon: Kensington* (0426 914666). *Miracle Arch* (0426 914501). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

KIKUCHI: Days in the barren life of a laundry attendant. Quietly hilarious minimalist fare from Japanese comic-strip illustrator Kenji Iwamoto. *ICA* (071-930 3647).

KUFFS (15): Immature police protection officer (Christian Slater) avenges the death of his elder brother, Flashy but feeble cop comedy. Director, Bruce A. Evans. *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636). *MGM Haymarket* (071-339 1527). *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310). *MGM Trocadero* (071-434 0031). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

THE MAGIC RIDDLE (U): Playful jumble of fairy-tales by Australian cartoon-maker Yoram Gross. *Odeon: Kennington* (0426 914666). *Miramax Chelsea* (071-352 5096). *MGM Tottenham Court Road* (071-536 6148). *Odeon: Kensington* (0426 914666). *Odeon: West End* (071-915574). *Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

THE VIRTUOSO (15): Three generations of clever women, expert in spelling but emotionally troubled. Refreshing play by Lee Blessing, subtly acted. *Greenwich Theatre, Prince of Orange*, 189 High Road, NW10 (081-858 2852). *Tues-Sun*.

THE FEEDLES (18): Odious Muppet-style puppet movie, aimed at adults, entirely juvenile in humour. Directed by New Zealand's Peter Jackson in 1990. *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310). *MGM Paxton Street* (071-930 0631).

MY OWN PRIVATE IRVING (18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking but aggravating. With River Phoenix, Keau Reeves. *Camden Plaza* (071-485 2443). *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636). *MGM Haymarket* (071-339 1527). *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310). *MGM Paxton Street* (071-930 0631).

THE HEARTBREAK HOUSE (12): Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-England drama. *Theatre Royal, Haymarket*, SW1 (071-930 8800). *Mon-Sat*, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. *Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue* (071-839 4401). *Mon-Thurs*, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8pm.

HEARTBEAT HOUSE (12): Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-England drama.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). *Mon-Sat*, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Trevor Nunn's engrossing production: David Hall's finally tempted by Claire Skinner in Freud's Vienna. *Young Vic, The Cut*, SE1 (071-620 041 1/28 6363). *Mon-Sat*, 7.15pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2pm.

PIYGALLOIRE: Frances Barber as Eliza, Alan Howard as Higgins, in Shaw's play about the value of speaking proper. Directed by Howard Davies. *National (Oliver), South Bank*, SE1 (071-928 2252). *Tonight*, Mon, 7.15pm, mat, today, 2pm.

I STAND BEFORE YOU NAKED: Ten monologues for women by Joyce Carol Oates: dry, comic, tragic, recounting the perils of sexual harassment and desire.

Admirably staged. Directed by Sydne Blake and designed by Gail Shaw. *Offstage: Downstairs*, 37 Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (071-267 0457). *Tues-Sun*, 8pm.

STRAIGHT UPON AVON: David Thacker directs Samantha Bond in *As You Like It*, his first production in the big theatre. Meanwhile in the Swan, Paul Jefferson plays a rich man turned beggarman in Richard Brome's *A Jovial Crew*, set during the English Civil War. *Max: Stafford-Clark*, directs.

Royal Shakespeare Theatre and *Swan* (0789 295623). *Mon*, 7.30pm, *Apr 22*; *A Jovial Crew*: *previews from Tues*, 7.30pm, *opens April 22*; *A Jovial Crew*: *previews from Mon*, 7.30pm, *opens April 21*.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dudgeon and Carmel McSharry in likeable comedy about a doting mother's

THEATRE

LONDON

THE ALCHEMIST: Jonathan Hyde and Philip Voss head a grand cast in Jonson's satire, transferring to a larger stage after last year's sell-out at the Swan. *Barbican, Barbican Centre*, EC2 (071-638 8891). *Previews tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; opens Wed, 7pm.*

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Trilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-Union drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. *National (Coriolan), South Bank*, SE1 (071-928 2252). *Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm.*

BACK UP THE MIAHSE AND LET THEM SNIF THE FLOWERS: The art of the salesman: William Gammie's comedy points out the tricks but simplifies deeper issues.

Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). *Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 4pm.*

THE COTTON CLUB: An Impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story freshness. Choreographed, directed and staged by Billy Wilson. *Alldwyn, The Aldwych*, WC2 (071-836 6404). *Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.*

THE FEEDLES (15): Three generations of clever women, expert in spelling but emotionally troubled. Refreshing play by Lee Blessing, subtly acted.

Greenwich Theatre, Prince of Orange, 189 High Road, NW10 (081-858 2852). *Tues-Sun*.

THE VIRTUOSO: Shawell's Restoration comedy of bad behaviour, directed with verve by Phyllida Lloyd. *The Pit, Barbican Centre*, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). *Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2pm.*

A WOMAN KILLED WITH KINDNESS: Sasha Reeves in Heywood's Yorkshire tragedy; Katie Mitchell's first RSC production is a vivid creation of country life. *The Pit, Barbican Centre*, EC2 (071-638 8891). *Previews tonight, Mon, 7.30pm, opens Tues, 7pm, Wed, 7.30pm.*

MOSSBONN CITY BALLET: Now in its second visit to Britain in two months, this troupe founded seven years ago by Victor Smirnov-Golovanov, brings its production of *Swan Lake* and a selection of divertissements in the first, *Giselle* Act II and various other popular pas de deux in the second. A sampler for the full Bolshoi company which comes to the Albert Hall next January. *Albert Hall, Trafalgar Square*, London W1 (071-980 5602). *Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 2.30pm.*

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CONCERTS



MONDAY 20 APRIL at 7.45

POPULAR BANK HOLIDAY CONCERT

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: MARTIN YATES Piano: ANDREW HAIGH-ROSSINI: *...OV. THE BARBER OF SEVILLE* VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: *FANTASIA ON GREENSLEEVES* GRIEG: *PIANO CONCERTO* RUMSEY-KORSAKOV: *CARPICCIO ESPAÑOL* ELGAR: *POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE No.4* DUKAS: *SORCERER'S APPRENTICE* SIBELIUS: *FINLANDIA*TCHAIKOVSKY: *1812 OVERTURE* WITH CANNON & MORTAR EFFECTS

\$8.50 \$12 \$15 \$17 \$20

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ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Director: IAN WATSON Clarinet: JACK BRYMER Violin: STEPHANIE CONLEY

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at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

SUNDAY 26 APRIL at 7.30

GRAND OPERA GALA

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PRO MUSICA CHORUS LONDON CHORALE

FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

Cond: DAVID COLEMAN Sop: LOUISA KENNEDY

Tenor: PHILIP CRESTA Baritone: JOHN CASHMORE

Overture: WILLIAM TELL Toreador's song: CARMEN

Una furtiva lagrima: L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Mention: TELEMUSICA: Stabat: a ve: SEVILLE

Soldiers: Chorus: *...Dove d'rai* PEARL FISHERS

Dove sono: MARIAGE DE FIGARO

Auto de fe: chorus: Don Carlos, Mi chiamano Mimi, L'heure gelida manina, O sovente fauva LA BOHEMIE

Prologue: I PAGLIACCIO Polovian Dances: PRINCE IGOR

Caro nome: La donna è mobile: RIGOLETTO

Ride of the Valkyres: THE VALKYRIES La donna di GIOVANNI

Grand March: AIDA Nessun dorma TURANDOT

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at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL

SUNDAY 24 MAY & WEDNESDAY 27 MAY at 7.30

THE LEGENDARY PIANIST**SVIATOSLAV RICHTER**

In two separate programmes to be announced

\$9.50 \$16.50 \$19.50 \$35 \$40

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at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL

SUNDAY 24 MAY at 7.30

VERDI & PUCCINI GALA OPERA NIGHT

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRO MUSICA CHORUS

FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Cond: DAVID COLEMAN

Soprano: CARO SMITH Mezzo: WENDY VESCO

Tenor: ANTHONY MEE Baritone: ARVEL HUW MORGAN

Overture: THE FORCE OF DESTINY: One fine day, Flower Duet, Humming Chorus MADAM BUTTERFLY

Per me guida DON CARLOS, Celeste Aida, Judgement

scene: AIDA, La donna è mobile: QUARTET BOLEO

Aida: Chorus: *...Dove d'rai* PEARL FISHERS

Dove sono: MARIAGE DE FIGARO

Chorus of Hebrew Slaves, Slave: Final Act 2 NABUCO

Intermezzo: MANON LESCAUT, Final Scene TURANDOT

Grand March: AIDA Nessun dorma TURANDOT

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ARI GALLERIES

JOANNA BOOTH: 10mm film

GARDEN HISTORY: 10mm film

As women portray Christ in a BBC series, Richard Johnson looks at how film-makers have shown Jesus

The way, the truth and the lies

Jesus Christ the movie star is a man of many faces. Over the years directors have permmed his hair, shaved his armpits, given him blue contact lenses, a ringlet beard and a New York accent, and made him into a rock 'n' roll singer. Casting Christ has never been easy, of course, because people have strong ideas about how he should look. But now *The Gospels*, seven adaptations of the 1611 Authorised Version of the Bible starting tomorrow on BBC 1, threaten to revive all the old arguments about making the word flesh.

In the tradition of company storytelling, *The Gospels* divide the roles among the cast. So four actors and two actresses take turns to speak the words of Christ. "It points up a whole range of characteristics in Jesus's character," says executive producer Jack Emery. "The women lend a gentleness and a universality to the character of Christ, but no one actor represents him. With six personalities in the company, the audience is constantly getting a fresh interpretation. It's a new way of saying old words."

This new Jesus illustrates the difficult position of television and film makers. As assorted directors recount in *Jesus Christ Moviestar*, a Channel 4 documentary on Easter Monday, they have merely inherited the church's own living dilemma: how do you portray someone whom many believe is both man and God? The problem was around long before the birth of moving pictures, but they did not help. As Harvey Cox, Professor of Divinity at Harvard, says: "The church felt, 'Who are these guys with cameras and lights to be depicting this figure—the one

we have the monopoly distribution licence for?'

When the British Board of Film Censors was formed in 1913, it imposed two prohibitions on film-makers: no nudity and no depiction of Christ. For a while the son of God tended to take the form of a deep voice off-camera. And when directors were brave enough to introduce an on-screen Christ, he was a whitewashed character with no human failings. In D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*, Christ was only allowed to turn water into wine after the film-maker had added a footnote assuring viewers that drinking wine was perfectly acceptable in ancient Palestine.

Audiences soon tired of the bland reverence of films that were little more than religious calendar art. Cecil B. De Mille reacted to this mood change with his belly-dancing Mary Magdalene and zebra-drawn chariot in *King of Kings*. It remained the most glamorous Holy Land until the arrival of star casting. *The Greatest Story Ever Told* starred the deserts with Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Sidney Poitier, Shelley Winters, Telly Savalas and Angela Lansbury, but the film was a dramatic flop. Audiences found it hard to believe in John Wayne as a Roman officer supervising Christ's crucifixion.

The Church did not like glibly Scripturama, or the camp glamour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Godspell*. But they also objected when Pasolini tried to revert to the Passion Play element of the Bible story with his *Gospel According To Saint Matthew*. By casting economics student Enrico Irazoqui as Christ, and a truck driver from Rome as Judas, Pasolini was trying to create a human climate for

his Jesus and give the story back to the people. As it was, the Spanish church and Franco's authorities accused Irazoqui of peddling communist propaganda and his passport was confiscated.

The church does not seem to want a Christ actor. Before the first viewing of *Jesus of Nazareth*, Franco Zeffirelli told an interviewer that "Jesus will be portrayed as an ordinary man". He received thousands of letters of complaints from Christians. General Motors backed out as sponsors.

In attempting to reach a greater understanding of the

conflicts recognised in the divine and human natures of Christ, Scorsese managed to offend every Christian lobby group. From the Houses of Parliament Christian Fellowship to Mother Teresa, Scorsese was pursued across the world.

Denys Arcand, the writer and director of *Jesus of Montreal*, addressed the problem of casting Christ by stepping back and making a film about an actor who was playing Jesus. He said: "I know enough to know that it is

impossible to write a Jesus story because we know so little about him."

Now *The Gospels* are trying another approach to the same problem: the representation of Christ. But some have already made up their minds. The Archdeacon of York, George Austin, condemned *The Gospels* as "insensitive and unnecessary" before he had seen it.

The Gospels begin on BBC 1 at 11.15pm tomorrow. Jesus of Montreal is broadcast as part of the Canada Film Season on Channel 4 at 10pm on April 21.



Denys Arcand's *Jesus of Montreal*, with Joanne-Marie Tremblay (left), Lothaire Bluteau and Catherine Wilkening



Women of the Sikulu company: a smiling, high-kicking and bottom-wagging chorus

World apart from reality

THIS South African musical is son of *ipi Tombi*, which took London by storm in the mid-Seventies. I never saw *ipi Tombi*, but can only imagine that composer Bertha Egnos, perpetrator of some unbelievably crass and unmemorable songs (which make Lloyd Webber appear like Beethoven), abetted by the jejune lyrics of Gail Lakier, must have been on better form 17 years ago.

Recent clear signs of the crumbling of apartheid seem to have led, as the Starlights showed at last summer's Lift Festival, to a desire for celebratory, unpolitical theatre in South Africa. But this show, while making vague noises about apartheid, not only shows no sign of political excitement, but exists in a timeless, all-black South Africa of white villagers and dedicated town-dwellers. If the South African Tourist Board had decided to put together a

cross his path, a tall skipping vicar (Linson Miswe) and a mobile-phone-toting yuppie, are never developed to the point where they might become individual. As for the women, they remain indistinguishably massed in a smiling, high-kicking and bottom-wagging chorus as a Soweto aerobics class, Xhosa or Zulu maidens.

But surely this show is all about rhythm and energy? In fact, most of the music follows the blandest of contemporary Western idioms, and although some of the drumming and dancing (especially a bizarre gumboot dance performed by the men) is exciting in a disembodied way, real energy is connected with emotion and not just spectacle. This is prettified, inauthentic black South Africa for white Westerners and, to me, vaguely offensive as well as boring.

Ubhejane is endowed with a certain puzzlement dignity by an unnamed actor who might be Joe Motsamai, but his arrival in the big city is a clichéd dramatic opportunity which hardly acquires the strength of a cliché. The characters who

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THEATRE

Sikulu Queen's

musical in the late Eighties, it would surely have looked rather like this.

The story is so naive and uninteresting as to be hardly worth mentioning, but for the record there is a young warrior called Ubhejane who leaves his village in search of his lost father. Not before a prolonged, traditional sending-off ceremony. Quite fun, I suppose and extremely jolly for what one imagines to be a sad sort of occasion.

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Flushed with flash

There have always been restaurants, bars, cafés, pubs which have become indissolubly linked with their patrons, which have owed their fortunes to those patrons' fame or infamy, which have given their names to gangs, sets or groups, which have tempted with the promise of exclusivity while admitting all-comers. The names are familiar in some instances: The Algonquin, the Café Royal, Lipp, La Coupole, The Chelsea Hotel, The Colony, The Casserole, The Coach and Horses (Surely this Soho public house derives 80 per cent of its income from coach parties seeking Jeffrey Bernard, who is retained by the management on a handsome stipend and replaced in his absences by an inflatable lookalike programmed to grunt ******** off you whenever a postgraduate student from Ann Arbor moves within three feet of it?).

To this august list we must add a new name: the Phoenix Apollo of Stratford East. But I warn you: if you're looking for the sort of person who frequented these other joints you'd better look elsewhere. The Phoenix Apollo is for real men and real women — none of your freelance intellectuals



Jonathan Meades travels to Stratford East to a phoenix that has belly-flopped into the cold ashes of awfulness

and light on their feet artists. The lads here are 150 per cent pure testosterone who can tell him what his favourite is. We know what Mr Benn likes — Brontosaurus Steak. I'll return to the food just as it has returned to me, but let us attend first to the decorative appointments.

Pin-up models and sportsmen are self evidently dependent on their bodies. But this should not of course be taken to imply that they have no brains. Far from it. We have often heard that "...as the next table was one to go by, is to drink vodka through your dinner. But then this table was not occupied by a sportsman and a starlet; indeed it's entirely likely that the fairly normal looking couple (two eyes apiece, all the usual appurtenances) don't even know Mr Gazebo.

Having tasted the Barolo I'd ordered and having felt it stripping my teeth and pitting my gums with gingivistic zeal I thought that vodka probably was the appropriate bevvy, for

where and a couple of chunks of elaborately carved wood. But the overall impression is of a hit and miss essay in Chingford good taste: twice lights, Flatford Mills plates on the walls, chocolate box repros. It's really rather dull.

It lacks the conviction of kitsch. The menu is more promising. A combination of "international", steak-house and Greek. Plus 30 or more flavoured coffees with names such as "Tinamoen [sic] Square — Our tribute to the students that gave everything", and "Suzanne Mizzi", "Jonathan King", "KPM and UK Taxi".

Laddish boasters can show off by ordering a 1918 Morton Rothschild at £1,727. But I doubt if many do the form, if the next table was one to go by, is to drink vodka through your dinner. But then this table was not occupied by a sportsman and a starlet; indeed it's entirely likely that the fairly normal looking couple (two eyes apiece, all the usual appurtenances) don't even know Mr Gazebo.

It has no flavour. But I came round to the wine. I saw the point of it. It proved to be a most appropriate complement to the food. Perhaps that's not quite the way to put it: the wine's achievement was to take away the taste of the food. This was a bottle of ace mouthwash, and I was quite

grateful for it. It was needed. Obviously we are often privileged to be admitted to the innermost thoughts of Body People on such subjects as Life, Ideas, War: "I'd like to open a boutique for World Peace." But this being Britain gastronomic opinions are rarely proffered. But I'd never have

guessed that the cream of Theydon Bois and le Four Chingford were quite as indiscriminate as the Phoenix Apollo suggests they are. Many have been up west, to Stringfellows. I haven't but I can't believe that its grub is at this level. The cooking at the Phoenix Apollo is the worst I've reported on in six years of this column.

Both I and the friend who accompanied me had to spit out several items. The fried potatoes and fried mushrooms were disgusting. Of course the cooking agent wasn't axle grease, simply an oil that imparts a horrible flavour when it's fresh and an even more horrible one when it has been used a few times.

Steak is poor, veal absolutely ghastly, satay desiccated and served with a sauce that bears no relation to the genuine

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first. It is not only courteous but illegal to dishonour bookings; that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

INDIAN

Saffron's
53 Kinnerton St, London SW1 (071-235 4444)
Offshoot of a successful restaurant in Lahore, this is a notable address for carnivores. Though such things as dhal and curries are the point of the short menu is meat. Lamb chops, lamb brains, chicken in batter, that's even available in batter in the man bread. The lamb is delicious, the prawns are high but worth it. If the service is slow it is because dishes are — unusually in a sub-continental establishment — cooked to order. £80 (set lunch £20, set dinner £30). Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

Makhan
37 Uxbridge St, London W8 (071-727 3800)
Unusual Indian place which has almost austere decor and a brief menu of very well liked. The cooking is high class and such dishes as marinated venison are perhaps better to contemplate than to eat. The most successful dishes are the most commonplace — lamb with spinach etc. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Chutney Mary
525 King's Road, London SW10 071-351 3113)

This swish outfit bills itself as the world's first Anglo-Indian restaurant. How accurately it represents the improvised and culturally confused nature of the food is open to discussion. Most of the dishes are interesting, and some are quite good. Mussels sausages and meat, crab cakes, nutmeg stew from Kerala, dhal, bread and butter pudding. The service is in definite need of overhaul. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

7 Long Lane, London N3 (081-349 4380/2636)

Perhaps the finest Indian vegetarian restaurant in London. It is not

so much the many unfamiliar dishes that impress as the extreme delicacy of the spicing and the differentiated flavours. The deep fried bhajis are unusually fine, the chutneys are quite unlike those habitually encountered. £30 plus. Lunch Wed-Fri and Sun. dinner every day.

Copper Chimney
13 Hoxton Street, London W1 (071-434 239 2004)

The service is brightish — loutish, offhand, unbelievably sluggish. The cooking is good: sea food bouillon; a splendid dhal of black beans; a vindaloo which has nothing but throat-ripping properties in common with the usual dish of that name; okra with chickpeas; tandoori fish. The cocktails are to be avoided. With beer or lassi, £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Gopal's
12 Bateman Street, London W1 (071-434 1631/0840)

Smart Indian restaurant with very smart cooking by a chef who has been associated with many of the better "new wave" subcontinental establishments of the last few years. Good "patties" of herbed potato, good tandoori cooked meat, bargain prahlai (£7.95). Nice filling puddings. £30. Lunch and dinner every day.

4 148-150 Stoney Lane, Sparkbrook, Birmingham 11 (021-49 0353)

A basic and excellent cafe specialising in a culinary idiom peculiar to Birmingham called balti. It may or may not have originated in Kashmir. Dishes are served in wok-like vessels called karahi. The range of vegetables is extensive and includes mustard leaf which is akin to sorrel. There are also finely spiced meat, poultry and pulse compositions. The rums and nans are as good as you'll find in Britain. No cutlery. Drink lassi, finish with Kulfis. £12 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

PASTA

Billboard Cafe
222 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 071-328 1374)

Looks like some sort of video director's idea of an American-diner, serves cocktails, plays non-stop pop music, employs gauche waitresses. Nevertheless the basically Italian cooking is quite sound: proper pasta dishes, well made salads, well prepared lamb. £30 plus. Dinner every day, brunch Sat-Sun.

L'Incontro
87 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 6327/3663)

Superior pasta at superlative prices. The place has been mugged by Design in a serious way, the chairs have loose covers to make them like bright-headed animals. Apart from the pasta the cooking is run of the mill. The wines are hideously overpriced. £85 plus. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

La Fontana
101 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 6630)

By no means standard issue Italian corridor of a restaurant which makes worthwhile attempts to break the mould. It makes a big

thing of autumnal fungus and is gifted at shattering white truffle on to risotto. Bottino misto is unspecial, polenta is dreary, pasta with rarely encountered sauces is better. £70 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

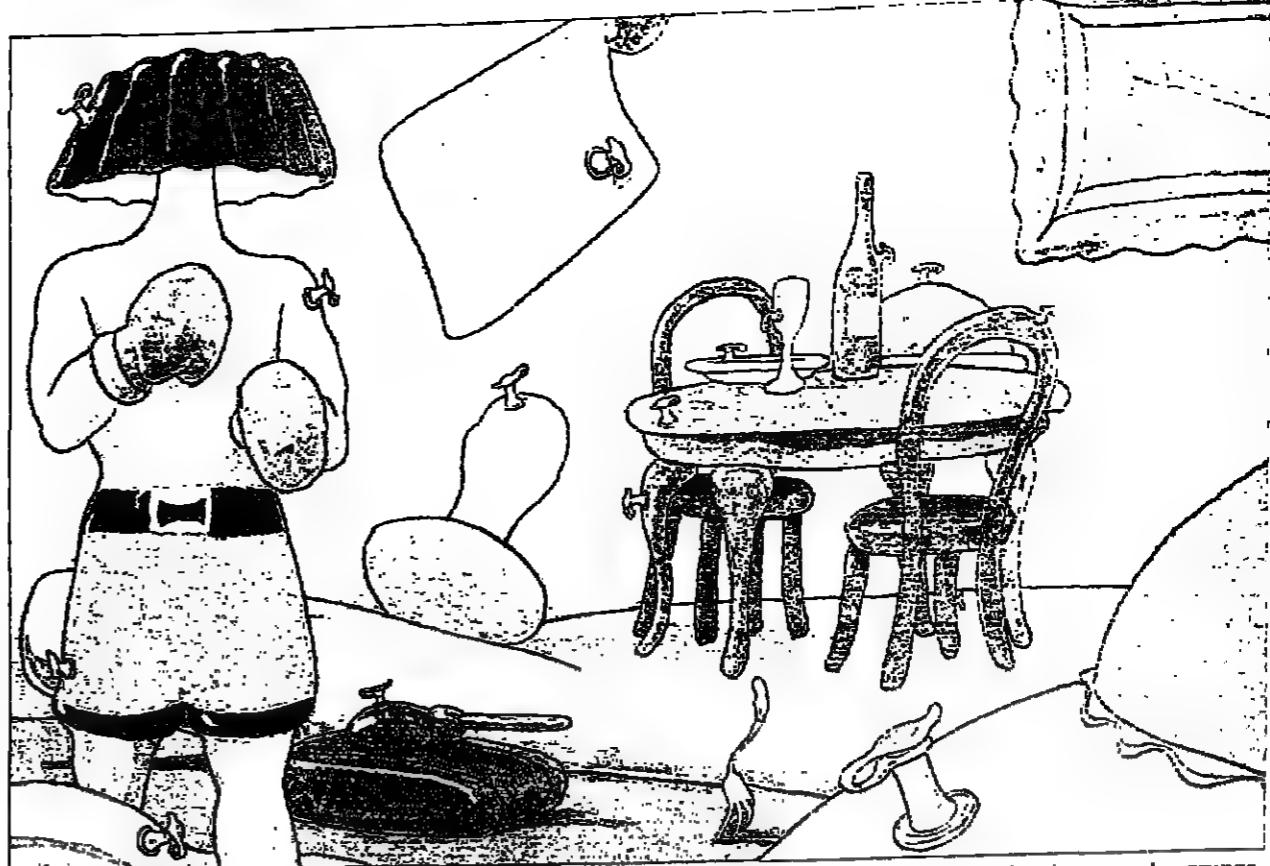
Wilton's
Market Place, Wilton, Salisbury (0722 744050)

Not exactly a wine bar, but not exactly a restaurant either — a weird and not unsuccessful marriage of the two. It's a useful outfit in an area which is, astonishingly, poorly served. The cooking is competent. If occasionally marred by over-ambitious sauces, quite good steak, game pudding, pasta. £20 plus. Lunch and dinner every day (Sunday dinner reservations only).

Old Manor House
Romsey, Hants (0794 517353)

Beamed dining rooms, unctuous formal yet friendly service, sensible wine list, variable cooking. The simpler, mainly Italian, dishes are a match for anywhere — pasta risotto with porcini, cooschni with lentils etc. The more complicated and more expensive dishes are all right, but nothing more. Stick to the cheaper menu at lunchtime when two can eat well for £45. Dinner is £60 or more. Lunch Tues-Sun, dinner Tues-Sat.

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Enjoy a Roman spring feast



Frances Bissell recreates some of the robust flavours of the Italian capital — and provides a food guide for travellers

The citizens of Rome are well placed to enjoy the Mediterranean diet, unlike the *contadini* of Slough who do not make their own wine, whose Chiltern Chalk circle is not clothed in olive groves, and who do not have a fishing village at the end of the airport runway.

I spent most of a recent visit to Rome combing the food shops and markets, interspersed with visits to *trattorie* and pauses for an ice-cream and a short, sharp burst of caffeine at the excellent *gelaterie*.

Piazza Vittorio, my favourite Roman market, the one where the city-dwellers shop and drive a hard bargain, was piled high with *primizie*, the first crops of many greens including sprout-like wild asparagus, heaps of zucchini flowers which, as a Roman speciality, are stuffed with mozzarella and deep-fried, bowls of water containing the pale, green curds of *puntarelle*, chicory shoots which are peeled and then shaved into strands. Served raw with a dressing of olive oil, garlic, wine vinegar or lemon juice and anchovies, they make a marvellously fresh starter.

Artichokes were there in profusion, costing from 600-1,000 lire (25-50p) each — I managed to sample artichoke prepared at least six different ways during my visit.

Salami of all kinds dangle temptingly. The meat stalls take my breath away, *abbacchio* (milk-fed lamb), *capretto cacciato* (castrated kid), spinal cord, spleen, brains, liver, tripe, testicles and the Roman speciality *patacca*, which is cooked into a sauce and served with the thick ribbed rigatoni.

Roman food is robust food, with strong, clean flavours, simple cooking methods, and made from the highest quality ingredients.

It was a Friday when I shopped in the Piazza Vittorio, and the largest queues were at the meat stalls, especially the halal butcher, it being the beginning of Ramadan, which coincided with Lent; hence the other jostling queues at the fish stalls opposite.

Writing about it makes me want to go back. A Roman feast for Easter is the solution.

Artichoke Sauce
(makes about 14pt/140ml)
2-3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
a few grains of coarse salt
2tbsp lemon juice or wine vinegar
freshly ground black pepper
1 small can of anchovy fillets in oil, drained
14pt/140ml extra virgin olive oil

Crush the garlic and salt, and mix with the lemon juice and black pepper. Pound or chop the anchovies, and mix in the seasoning and the oil. Not only is this the right dressing for *puntarelle*, it is very good with other crisp or bitter salad leaves and does wonders for an iceberg lettuce. I usually make more than I need for a salad dressing and store the leftover in the refrigerator to be used for the

following recipe, which is excellent with some of the "artisan" pastas, such as handmade *orecchiette*, or other chunky pastas. English sprouting broccoli now in season is the thing to use here.

Pasta with broccoli
(serves 4)
1 small onion or shallot, peeled and chopped
1tbsp extra virgin olive oil
3/4lb/340g sprouting broccoli, rinsed and drained
3-4 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
3-4tbsp stock or white wine
14pt/70ml anchovy sauce (see previous recipe)
1lb/455g dried pasta
To serve
freshly grated Parmesan

Have a pan of water on to cook the pasta. Gently cook the onion in olive oil until soft. Strip the broccoli sprouts and leaves from the central stem. Discard or peel any tough portions, and slice the main stem. The smaller leaves can be left whole and the larger ones bunched together and cut across into 3-4 pieces. Stir the broccoli on a relatively high heat for a few minutes, stir-frying, adding the garlic as well. Add the stock and cover, letting the broccoli cook in the steam for a few minutes more. Meanwhile, the pasta should be put in to cook for the appropriate time. Stir the anchovy sauce into the broccoli. When cooked, drain the pasta, and fold pasta and sauce together before turning into a heated serving bowl.

Note: If you have dried tomatoes, they combine well with the strong flavours of broccoli and anchovies. Tomatoes in oil can be cut into strips and added with the broccoli. Dry tomatoes can be soaked in a little hot water while you fry the onions, and then cut them up and add to the broccoli.

Carciofi alla Romana
(Roman-style artichokes)
(serves 4)
1 lemon
4 artichokes
a few stems of mint and parsley
salt, pepper
14pt/70ml extra virgin olive oil
4tbsp white wine

Remove the zest from the lemon, and cut in half. If the artichokes have long stalks, break these off near the base, and rub the broken surface with the cut lemon to keep them from browning. Peel the stalks down to the tender centre, and drop in a bowl of water to which you have added some lemon juice. Break off the coarse outer leaves, and then the coarse tips of the remaining leaves until you have removed all the tough fibrous parts. Each cut surface should be rubbed with the lemon to prevent it darkening. The choke is dealt with later. There is no need to cut off the leaf tips unless you have artichokes with sharp spiny points to the leaves. We normally get the blunt Breton or Cyprus artichokes in



Britain. Strip the mint and parsley leaves from the stems, and put the stems, together with some of the lemon zest, in a large pan of water. Season lightly, bring to the boil, and cook the artichokes for 15-20 minutes. Drain, and when cool enough to handle, open out the centre, and remove the hairy choke without removing the tender base, which is the best part of the artichoke. Put the artichokes back in the empty pan, with olive oil and white wine, chopped herbs and zest, keeping a little of the green and yellow back to sprinkle on the artichokes before serving. Cover and cook over a low heat until the artichokes are tender.

Serve in shallow soup plates, scattered with the remaining herbs and zest. Eat with a knife and fork or your fingers. This is the simplest preparation of *carciofi alla Romana*. For a more elaborate version, when the artichokes are part cooked and the choke has been removed, the centre is filled with the same herbs and lemon, mixed with soft breadcrumbs and moistened with wine and olive oil. The artichokes are put back in the saucepan to continue cooking, standing upright so that the stuffing does not fall out. The peeled stalks can be cooked with artichokes and then used in a soup or as a salad ingredient.

I love the Roman use of mint in cooking, as prevalent today as it was during the time of the Roman empire — it has quite converted me to mint with lamb. The following recipe is one I originally devised to go with a roast leg of goat, based on the Apicius recipes. If you can get mature goat, I highly recommend it; otherwise, a leg of lamb will do nicely. I recommend British lamb, which has plenty of flavour and, above all, texture.

Although it has been highly praised elsewhere, I have found Marks & Spencer's chilled New Zealand lamb exceedingly disappointing: little flavour, and so soft that you could eat it without teeth, were my findings after three test dishes. When I raised with their food technologist, however, he said that for most people, the elements I criticised would be a plus point. Tenderness is the most important consumer requirement of meat, it seems, not flavour and texture. Are we becoming a nation of toothless consumers? I hope not. Consumers need teeth.

Preheat your oven to 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Brush the meat with most of the olive oil. Strip the leaves from the mint, reserve them, and place the stalks on a rack in a roasting tin. Roast the lamb for about one and a half hours.

Put the mint, spices and herbs in a mortar, and pound them. Put the wine, jam and cider vinegar in a saucepan. Sauté the pounded herbs, and add the remaining olive oil. Bring to the boil, and simmer on a very low heat for 20-25 minutes. Strain into a heated sauceboat, add the skinned roast juices and serve with the roast.

Roast lamb with mint sauce
(serves 4-6)
1 leg or loin of lamb weighing 3-4lb/1.35-1.8kg
3-4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2-3 sprigs fresh mint
14tsp freshly ground black pepper
14tsp celery seed
pinch of dried oregano
14tsp fennel seeds
21/2oz/70ml good red wine
1tbsp plum or damson jam
21/2oz/70ml cider vinegar
salt, pepper

Mint and mushroom stuffing for lamb
4oz/110g brown cap mushrooms
2 cloves garlic
1tbsp oil
2oz/55g breadcrumbs
1tbsp chopped fresh mint
1tbsp grated fresh ginger
Juice of half a lemon

Chop mushrooms and garlic finely. Fry in oil over high heat for one minute, stirring constantly. Add all other ingredients. If using dried mint and ginger, halve quantities given for fresh.

Chock full of Easter appeal

Jane MacQuitty on the wines that will tickle the most rabid chocaholic's fancy

Post-election blues or euphoria, plus the prospect of the long Easter holiday weekend ahead call for a glass of champagne. Fortunately, the decent £10 bottle of bubbly is still with us. Drinking champagne has always been an indulgence, doubly so in a recession. But I still think that the slashed price, £10 bottle of bubbly, provided you are selective, is worth it. Good champagne with the right relationship between quality and price is hard to beat.

My favourite bargain-base-mint bubbly — although like all, it has its ups and downs — has been the Hôpital family's J. de Telmont Grande Réserve, not the skinny Blanc de Blancs which is nowhere near as good. Based on an almost 50-50 mix between the region's two fuller-flavoured black grapes, pinot noir and meunier, topped up with a little slimline chardonnay, Grande Réserve's rich, biscuity scent and fruity palate pleases all. The good news for Easter is that Majestic Wine Warehouses has reduced its price to a rock-bottom £9.89 from £11.99. Anyone with a summer wedding or christening coming up should stock up now with this classy, cut-price champagne, discounted until April 20. And don't forget last week's recommended cut-price champagne bargains at Tesco's Paul Letrier Réserve (£8.79) and Sainsbury's non-vintage Brut £10.45 per bottle if you buy two. Both wines are still available.

Helpfully, Majestic have several other champagne deals on offer this month. High-profile grandes marques

champagnes do not come cheap. But Veuve Clicquot has recently taken a step-up in quality. Its deep, fruity, almost peppery style looks a good Majestic buy priced at £16.45, down from £19.95 until April 20, and even undercutts Oddbins £17.13, seven bottles for the price of six deal. Less useful are Majestic's discounts on Roederer's rich, honeyed Brut Premier (£16.96, not £19.95) and fresh, apple-like Laurent Perrier (£14.83, not £17.45).

Again, Roederer's Majestic price undercutts that of Oddbins' seven for six arrangement, as it also does on Oddbins' Laurent Perrier price. However, these prices only apply to Majestic's "Selection" customers, to become one entails getting on to Majestic's mailing list and using a "Selection" card.

With households full of chocolate Easter eggs, rabbits and ducks next weekend, that troublesome question of what wine to drink with them crops up. Wine, despite what the purists say, can and does go with chocolate. As chocoholics no doubt already know, the obvious run of luscious, dessert wines fail miserably when partnered with chocolate: most taste spineless, or overly acidic alongside chocolate, even if it's the lightweight milk chocolate variety and you serve your oldest, finest and most powerful sauternes.

The best bet in the dessert wine spectrum is that delicious 1885 Solera Scholz Hermanns Malaga made from moscatel grapes grown on the dull, sunburnt hills behind Marbella and Malaga in southern Spain. (Laymont &

of good, ordinary Australian reds that I elected to conduct my 1992 wine and chocolate trial. The 1990 Glenloch Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (£29.99) with its simple, Ribena-like taste fared well, taking on even a coffee bean-laced praline with ease.

Better still was an impressive 1988 Leo Buring Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra, whose ultra-ripe, silky cassis taste coped with every chocolate flavour I put it up against. It is now down from £6.99 to £4.99 at Oddbins.

Easter is not all red wine, chocolates and champagne. So, for those on the lookout for good, inexpensive white wines, sound but limited availability buys this Easter include Sainsbury's new £2.15 1991 Le Paradou, a southern French vin de pays made from the mazuel grape. What separates this white from the pack is its pleasing, spring-like, grassy-appley taste. Finer and spicier is Hugh Ryman's 1991 Domaine de Lian, for once a good Gascony vin de pays, whose zesty, white currant-like flavour should make ideal drinking on the first warm days. (Thresher/Wine Rack £3.35).

Finally, for those who like to be quick on the block, the first 1992 vintage wine, harvested in the Cape's southern hemisphere vineyards at the end of January, has already arrived here. Smart wine drinkers will want to be seen with a bottle of 1992 Goya Kgeisje (Tesco £2.99) on their Easter table.

From the Vredendal co-op, Goya Kgeisje is made entirely from the sauvignon grape and its agreeable, light, grassy taste is best drunk as young as possible. The 1991 vintage is already well past its best and the 1992 vintage will doubtless go the same way.



Best bet: ideal for dessert

Shaw, The Old Chapel, Millpool, Truro £5.99, Waitrose £7.25). Unlike sherry, good malaga works with chocolate because its distinctive scent of roses and unusual, sweet, raisiny palate just about manages to linger on in the mouth, no matter how dark, rich and intensely flavoured the chocolate is. Try a glass of this moreish dessert wine with simnel cake for a special Easter experience.

Also try with chocolate, one of the biggest, bounciest, dry New World red wines from places such as California and Australia.

California seems to have priced itself out of the UK market. So, it was with a range

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SHOPPING AND EATING IN ROME

Open air markets: Campo dei Fiori, near the Piazza Navona, one of the most attractive city markets anywhere. Via Latiore, near the Trevi Fountain, has space for about eight fruit and vegetable stalls during the day. Piazza Vittorio (Emanuele), near the central station and Santa Maria Maggiore, is a large market with food, clothes and hardware. Wonderful spices, pulses and dried fruit; fresh fish, shellfish, meat, dairy produce and salumeria. The fruit, vegetables and flowers are very good quality and 20-30 per cent cheaper than elsewhere in the city.

Food shops: Via Cola di Rienzo, for specialist food shops and *pasticcerie*. It is across the river, directly opposite the Piazza del Popolo and not on the tourist route. At number 196 is Castroni, with specialities from all over the world. It also has an excellent bar. Next door is Franchi, a smaller shop which specialises in pasta, both fresh and dried, as well as cheese, salumeria and made-up dishes. Standa, the cheap and cheerful chain store, is across the road, and this has a decent supermarket.

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Love blooms among the hedgerows

Friendship clubs for lonely Greens are springing up. Joanna Gibbon investigates the success of gentle touch

Anyone despairing of ever meeting their country-side-loving, environmentally concerned soulmate need worry no longer. Friendship agencies — the word "dating" is graceless — are sprouting all over in response to the demand for more caring, honest-as-the-soil people.

Many gentle Greens, it seems, have encountered difficulties meeting that special person for romance and a life-long relationship. Those who fled the city find the rural life — however idyllic and noise-free — an isolating experience: establishing friendships never mind anything more, can be awkward, particularly for the divorced with young children or those with solitary occupations.

Others dream of escaping the Smoke, complaining that they no longer have anything in common with their workmates, and finding no joy in the local branch of Friends of the Earth.

The result is the emergence of specialist agencies catering for lonely farmers, country folk, vegetarians, Christians and even astrologists. The Greens, reflecting the recent boom in interest in the environment, now have three agencies — two in England and one starting in Scotland.

Barbara and James Bradshaw, who live at Culford, a village near Bury St Edmunds, began Natural Friends in 1985. "There were few people around here with whom we could share social and environmental interests and we wondered whether others had the same problem. Also, it was our contribution to the Green movement if two people save energy together then they achieve much more than if they were on their own," Mrs Bradshaw says.

Many subscribers want to escape London or its suburbs: women particularly dream of a cottage in the country, "she says. The agency has found that Scotland has a good supply of men: two women from

house to save energy," Mrs Bradshaw says.

From small and local beginnings, the agency now attracts many people from London and other cities. Its membership is about 1,900: most are vegetarian, non-smoking, and register for about a year. The largest group is aged between 30 and 50 with as many men as women.

The agency does not attempt to match people. It asks new subscribers (who pay £38 for a year's membership) to write about themselves in a 100-word paragraph, which then goes into a bi-monthly newsletter distributed to all members. Recurring phrases in the digests include: "open-minded, honest and sensitive"; "cares about the world and wild places"; "hates disco, most sport, TV soaps and conversation about cars". The Bradshaws say many applicants work in the caring professions. "There are doctors, nurses and lawyers as well as practitioners of alternative therapies. Some have concentrated so hard on their career that their personal life has suffered," Mrs Bradshaw says.

Once their description is printed in the newsletter, it is up to members to write to others who take their fancy; for security women usually have box numbers. What appears to be a rather country method of encountering people — letters, telephone calls and finally a meeting — gives the person a dignified door through which to exit at any stage if they want, says Mrs Bradshaw, who encourages various safeguards. "We advise people to meet each other's friends and family — anyone who is reticent about this should immediately raise suspicions.

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Specialised help: Barbara and James Bradshaw set up a friendship agency to help Greens find other people with similar concerns

Suffolk and Devon have headed north recently. Applicants from Wales are the most genuinely rural: "They seem to have a lot of problems finding each other."

Natural Friends' success rate is impossible to gauge, but when a meeting works the participants seem to waste little time. Peter and Judy's first meeting in Richmond Park took place last September: they now live together in Peter's house in Woking, Surrey, and plan to get married next month.

Peter, a 34-year-old divorcee, joined Natural Friends last February after his Open University studies put paid to his social life. "I spotted Natural Friends in an OU newsletter," Peter says.

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house to save energy," Mrs Bradshaw says.

It is a stress-free lifestyle and the arts; those who are peaceful and not pushy," he says, describing himself as Green, but not fanatical. He is a member of the National Trust and loves walking and camping in the countryside and by the sea.

Judy, an American who has lived in Britain for seven years, is deeply concerned about the environment. "I buy recycled products and use bottle and can banks. I do anything to help in a small way."

Friends envy Peter and Judy for their compatibility, Peter says. "They say we are like two peas in a pod."

Jane and Andy met for the first time last October after several long

telephone calls during September: Andy, aged 31, was the first person Jane contacted. Jane, aged 38, discovered Natural Friends in a Rembers' Association magazine.

They met at Aylesbury railway station in Buckinghamshire — "we had already exchanged photographs but we walked past without recognising each other at first," Jane says — and spent the afternoon at an old church talk.

"There was a great rapport."

Now Jane is planning to move from Berkshire so that she can be closer to Andy, who lives in a thatched cottage in Suffolk with his two young children.

Both are divorced, vegetarian, and neither drinks. "I could never

see myself living under the same roof or even going out socially with someone who ate meat," says Jane, who is a member of Friends of the Earth: Andy is a member of the local wildlife group. They both love walking, being involved with the local church, bell-ringing, tidying up the churchyard and folk music. Jane is tackling Andy's somewhat overgrown garden.

A point of contention might be Andy's new hobby, Morris dancing. "It is an all-male preserve and I can't join in," Jane says. "But my daughter and I will join the women's clog dancing group. Apparently a lot of couples do that in the village."

• *Natural Friends, 0284 728315.*

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SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

OUT OF TOWN

Alice adds to a happy black week

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

At long last the suspense is over, and we can put behind us the weeks of guesswork and nail-biting anticipation. Yes, Alice the Large Black sow has delivered us of a fine litter of nine healthy piglets. In pig breeding terms, a good working majority.

Of course, it is nothing like the landslide of a couple of litters ago when she had 13, but we are not complaining. Her latest labours were accomplished with dignity and composure with the exception of the usual percussive symphony in which she signals that her hour has come by flinging her cast-iron feeding trough high into the air and letting it fall heavily on to the concrete. The resounding clatter would have made even Quasimodo jealous.

She accomplishes it with her powerful but finely tuned snout, which is her principal instrument of government. She has such mastery of it that at one moment it has enough deadly force to raise chunks of three-inch concrete, and yet moments later an escaping piglet will feel its gentle nudge and be deflected back to the warmth and shelter of the sty. Autocratic yet caring, that's our Alice.

And so it has been yet another black week, but a happy one. Last week was overshadowed by the looming black presence of the tattered shepherd's hut. And now I

find this week, apart from the squealing litter of black piglets, a decidedly black-looking parcel arriving in the post which has caused me much excitement, and thrown my family into a deep gloom.

I mentioned some time ago that my unfulfilled ambition was to make porridge by rolling my own oats. It proved impossible, as I could find no way of separating the luscious groats from the indigestible husks. In fact, I now know that I was wasting my time, for a company with the boastful name of Superiots wrote to say that what I should be growing were "naked oats", so called because they have no husk. It would be a simple matter to roll them, carry them to the stove, and live happily ever after. They sent a sample to prove it, and I confess I have never tasted better porridge.

Instead of writing a simple letter of thanks, I set them a further problem. Old horsemen have often mentioned to me that they used to grow a variety of oat called "black oats". "Hell," they would insist, "them black 'uz, them were good grub for 'osses." Apparently, there was no finer feed for the working carthorse than these plump, fattening, invigorating black grains. But

where to find the seed? I asked various merchants but got no response. And when I wrote to Superiots there was no immediate response. This dinosaur of a cereal, I guessed, had become extinct. But last week, a parcel the size of a sweetie arrived in the post. Inside were a couple of pounds of precious black oat seed. I gazed into the bag like Howard Carter peering into the tomb of Tutankhamun, and shivered with delight. Where had they been found? Was I holding in my hand the very last few grains of black oats in the world? Alas no. "They're quite common in France," said the man from Superiots. "They grow them for horses. None grown in this country though."

So I intend to correct that sorry state of affairs. My carthorses expect no less of me. It will, of course, take years. I shall plant the few seeds that I have, harvest them and thrash them on the floor of the barn to remove the grain. I shall then sow those the following year, and so on until I have enough seed to plant a crop. It is fraught with danger. One hungry rabbit which happened to stumble across the budding stalks could easily wipe out the whole experiment.

The only thing to contend with now will be the black looks on the faces of my family when I break it to them that, with so little black seed to start with, we shall have to sow each grain by hand. We shall scratch a shallow furrow in the earth with a stick and, in biblical fashion, drop seed after seed faithfully on to the earth. And then pray. But I think it will be worth it.

because my *Farmers' Dictionary* of 1834 says of the black oat: "... very hardy, ripen early, adapted to profitable cultivation in some of the most tempestuous and least improved districts of Britain". As I am coming to the conclusion that this is the most tempestuous and least improved farm in the whole of Britain, the black oats and I should get on fine.

Feather report

The hidden message of a bird's song

It is hard to understand the world of our fellow mammals. We do not possess the truly vital sense, you see, we smell in black and white, and in very coarse images at that. Most mammals see in black and white, and have their sensory being in an unimaginably colourful world of smells. So many mammals are nocturnal creatures of the dark, but people are born for the daylight.

In some ways, we are closer to the bird's world. Birds like us, see in colour. Smell is not a large part of their lives. Seeing and hearing are the things... Where birds are invisible — in the forest canopy, in scrubs and brakes, in deep grassland — they communicate in a way we can understand: they call. And at this time of the year, a lot of them sing.

And we can understand many songs and calls. Take

mammals, and this, it is thought, is what enables them to distinguish sounds that occur very close in time. They can separate sounds two thousandths of a second apart: about ten times better than we can manage. That is why a wren's song, a blur to us, is of crystal clarity for birds.

Birds hear and distinguish these sounds *consciously*, it would seem. The Sound Archive has recordings of a notorious mimic, the marsh warbler, a European bird that occasionally turns up in this country, and has compared its impersonations note by note with the originals, discovering that the marsh warbler does not omit a single one of the little notes and twiddly bits.

You can hear this, slowed down, and you can see it, when it is played through a sonagraph. This gives you an enigmatic sort of scribby

graph, plotting time against frequency.

The graph supplies data that answer questions about, say, the difference between a robin's spring and autumn song. Some people claim there isn't one. The system has helped discover new species: a recent example is a Chinese leaf warbler, with no common name as yet — *Phylloscopus swinhensis*.

Readers may recall the recent spate of excitement about a possible new species of petrel discovered off Britain's shores. Work at the Sound Archive on a recording of the mystery bird's voice seems to indicate that it was in fact a Swinhoe's storm petrel, which had somehow found its way here all the way from the southern hemisphere.

This is an Aladdin's cave of sound: a babel of biological diversity. So many species, so much noise: about 80,000 recordings, 7,000 members of the animal kingdom. Gibbons, whales, the mating call of the herring, frogs, crickets, spiders — they tap out rhythms on leaves — blackbirds. Swinhoe's storm petrel, cuckoo, nightingale, wren.

All animal life is there, yelling its head off at the touch of a button.

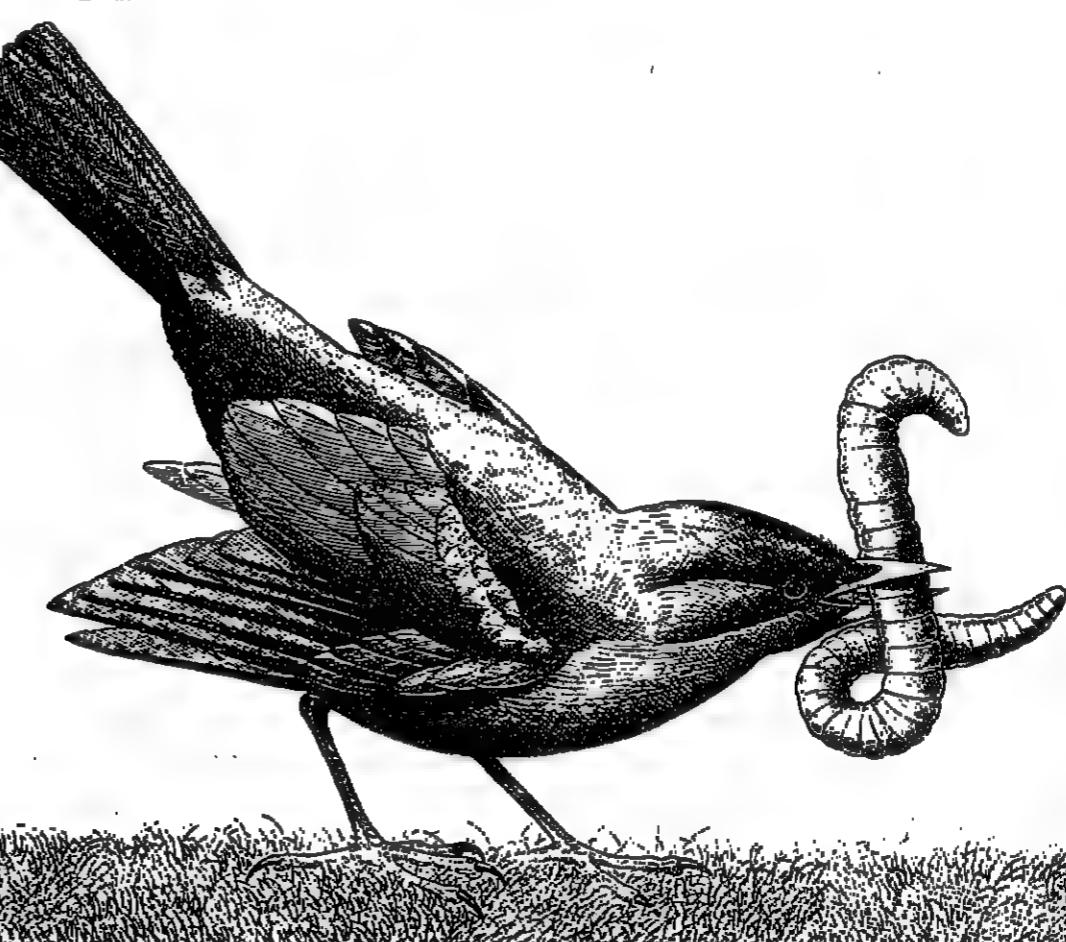
SIMON BARNES

What about birds — the first swallows are arriving. Twitchers — a night heron has been seen at Pulborough Brooks, West Sussex, and a purple heron at Poole Harbour, Dorset. Details from *Birdline*, 0898 700222.



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UP TO £500 FOR EARLY BIRDS AT YOUR LAWNMOWER DEALER.



Classical rendering: the wren's song notated by the composer Messiaen, who used bird sounds in his works

graph, plotting time against frequency.

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Where can you ride in a desk, be a prisoner of war, pan for lead, enjoy a Celtic ritual,

100 family treats for Easter

During the Easter holidays, being a parent provides a fine reason — or an excuse — for enjoying with your children all the fun of a family day out. Take a steam train journey, press buttons in a new high-tech museum, pat farm animals out in the country, take part in historical re-enactments — there is plenty of scope for embarrassing your children by joining in with all the entertainment.

To find out what diversions are on offer around the country, Betty Jerman has tracked down a multitude of things to do and see that will absorb and entertain children of all ages, and in all weathers. For this weekend and many others throughout the year, the list should provide a rich source of cues for that dreaded moan: "I'm bored. There's nothing to do."

Where places are not open year-round, opening times have been indicated. But either way a telephone call to check details before travelling is strongly recommended. Any venue may be unexpectedly closed for a day or more.

MUSEUMS

- **Museum of the Moving Image**
South Bank, SE1 (071-401 2636)
Magic lanterns, the early and prime days of Hollywood, TV from black and white days. Make your own animations, read the news, soar over London through special effects. £5.50, child £1.30.
- **London Toy & Model Museum**
21-23 Craven Hill, W2 (071-262 7905)
7,000 commercially made toys in two Victorian houses. In the garden: play bus, boating pond, vintage carousels, trains. £2.80, child £1.30.
- **Museum of Automata**
Tower Street, York (0904 655550)
Collection of colourful 18th to 19th-century mechanically animated figures brought to life, some on video screens. Start modern pieces yourself, such as the Mad Professor's Musical Instrument. £3, child £1.70.
- **Teedy Bear Museum**
19 Greenhill, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 293160)
Bears large, small, mechanical, musical and famous. £1.90, child 95p.
- **The Historic Dockyard Chatham**, Kent (0634 812551)
Shipbuilding since the Tudors. Check events at Visitor

Centre first, like traditional ropemaking in 1,128ft Rope-walk. "Wooden Walls", story of building and going into action of a wooden warship, with figures, voices, gunfire. £5.20, child £2.60.

□ **Eden Camp**
Malton, N. Yorkshire (0653 697777)
Former prisoner-of-war camp. Experience the second world war, rationing, fashions, Home Guard, munitions factory, coal mine (Bevin Boys) with sound, light and smells. £3, child £2.

□ **Beth Industrial Heritage Centre**

Camden Works, Julian Road, Bath (0225 318348)

Victorian ironmonger's and mineral water business. Try your hand at mixing "pop". April-October. £2.50, child £1.50.

□ **Sally Lunn's Refreshment House and Museum**

4 North Parade Passage, Bath (0225 461634)

Watch the owners baking the famous bun. Ecclesiastical, late-Tudor kitchen. Excavations revealed Roman, Saxon levels. Under-road tunnel with stonewalls. 30p, child free.

□ **Castle Museum**

Clifford Street, York (0904 653611)

Once a prison. Reconstructed Victorian streets with shops, cabs. Rooms furnished, Georgian, Victorian, even 1950s. £1.90, child 95p.

□ **The Historic Dockyard Chatham**, Kent (0634 812551)

Shipbuilding since the Tu-

itors. Check events at Visitor

Lots of toys and costumes. £3.35, child £2.35

□ **Tudic House**

Castle Street, Carlisle (0228 347811)

Border history. Stroll through Roman Carlisle, climb Hadrian's Wall, meet a reiver (ancient cattle rustler), peep into a bird of prey hideout. £3.10, child £1.60.

□ **Welsh Folk Museum**

St Fagans, Cardiff (0222 569441)

Welsh life seen through buildings brought from original sites. Elizabethan mansion, farmhouse, cottages, coal miners' terrace, chapel, forge, gardens. Children's activity guide. £3.50, child £1.75

□ **Amberley Chalk Pit Museum**

Houghton Bridge, W. Sussex (0798 831370)

Open air. The industrial working life of our forebears, engines, a forge, village garage. Working potter, blacksmith, brick-making. Try ancient omnibus. April-October. £3.90, child £1.80.

□ **National Museum of Photography, Film and Television**

Princes' View, Bradford (0274 727488)

Everything you would want to know about taking photographs, from early stills to latest technology. Operate the cameras in a studio set, be a TV newsreader, fly courtesy of special effects. Free entry.

□ **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**

Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx (081-568 4757)

Giant Victorian engines in restored water pumping station, even a steam railway. £2.10, child £1.10.

□ **Haggs Castle**

100 St Andrew's Drive, Glasgow (041-427 2725)

16th-century castle now a museum for children. Original kitchen brought to life and the gentry in their bedroom preparing for dinner. Victorian nursery with dolls. Free.

Join the pilgrims walking to Becker's tomb. Hear the tales of the County Knight, the Wife of Bath. Life-size figures in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

□ **A Day at the Wells**

The Corn Exchange, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 546545)

Walk through settings of 18th-century society taking the waters, a coffee house, the Pantiles, an hotel, a ball. Commentary. £2.75, child £1.75.

□ **Royal and Empire Central Station, Windsor**

(0753 857837)

Spectacular re-creation of Queen Victoria awaiting guests for Diamond Jubilee and "departing" from station with guard of honour. New fortieth anniversary exhibition about royalty today. Learn to curtsey, wear a replica crown, walk through a cheering crowd. £3.95, child £2.45.

□ **Royal Mews**

Buckingham Palace Road, SW1 (071-930 4832)

Four Windsor greys demonstrate how the familiar pageantry is created in stables where, also for the first time, all seven state carriages can be seen. April 15-July 16 Wed-Thurs, July 22-Oct 2 Wed-Fri, noon-4pm. £2, child £1.

□ **Warwick Castle**

Warwick (0926 495421)

Splendidly dressed figures in 12 rooms, making their toilette, formally socialising in the drawing-room for "A Royal Weekend Party — 1898" — when Edward VII visited. Also state rooms, dungeon, armoury in medieval castle. £5.75, child £3.50.

□ **Devonshire**

Hampshire (0509 612123)

Buckler's Hard, 18th-century shipbuilding village, 2.5 miles from the Motor Museum. Original cottages brought to life with figures, furnishings, labourers, shipwrights, inn patrons. £2.50, child £1.50.

□ **The Oxford Story**

6 Broad Street, Oxford (0865 790055)

Ride in a moving desk, learn about university life from the Middle Ages through the Reformation and Civil War, about characters seen life-size in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

□ **The Canterbury Tales**

St Margaret's Street, Canterbury (0227 454888)

Time "cans" into the greenwood to see figures, settings re-creating the legends of the outlaws. Study research on the legends. Archery. £3.95, child £2.45.

□ **Dark ride**

past tableaux depicting 2,000 years of London's history, Romans, Vikings, hordes, the Blitz, with sounds, smells. £4.50, child £2.50.

□ **White Cliffs Experience**

Market Square, Dover (0304 214566)

6,000 years of history, the Roman invasion (char with slaves, soldiers), a gruesome Celtic ritual, clamber the rigging on an old ferry, pick your way through the rubble of a bombed 1944 street. £4, child £2.50.

□ **Mountfitchet Castle**

Stansted, Essex (0279 813237)

Reconstructed Norman wooden motte and bailey castle and Norman village with animals. £3.50, child £2.50.

□ **Rhondda Heritage Park**

Lewis Mynydd, Coed Cae Road, Treheredd, Glamorgan (0443 682036)

"Black Gold — The Story of Coal", realistic scenes from first-hand accounts, sounds, smells, life-like figures of past times in the once pit-head buildings. £3.50, child £2.50.

□ **Action Scott Working Farm Museum**

Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Shropshire (0942 6306)

Working farm before electricity and petrol engine. Sheep, pigs, poultry. Traditional crafts demonstrated. April-October. £2.50, child £1.20.

□ **Wigan Pier**

Wigan, Lancs (0942 323666)

1900 brought to life. Visit a collier's family, sing in the pub, repeat at the temperance meeting, see a Victorian classroom. £5.10, child £3.10.

□ **Smugglers' Adventure**

St Clement's Caves, West Hill, Hastings (0424 422964)

In a labyrinth of caverns over 50 life-size figures, with sound and light, tell the story of 18th to 19th-century smuggling. £3, child £2.

□ **Tower Hill Pageant**

Tower Hill, SE1 (071-709 0081)

Walk through settings of 18th-century society taking the waters, a coffee house, the Pantiles, an hotel, a ball. Commentary. £2.75, child £1.75.

□ **Child £1.30.**

□ **Killhope Wheel**

Stanhope-Alston road,

Northumbria (0388 537505)

The square of mineral dwellings, eating, sleeping four to a bed in same room. 34ft-high wheel now turning again. Pan for lead and discover the drudgery of finding enough to get paid. Easter-October. £1.50, child £1.75.

See Viking carvings where they were dug up, in York

□ **MARINE LIFE**

□ **Kingdom of the Sea**

Marine Parade, Gr

Yarmouth (0493 330631)

Walk through an ocean tunnel to see shark and other sea creatures. Child-height beach pool with inhabitants to touch. £4.25, child £3.25.

□ **Kingdom of the Sea**

Southern Parade,

Hunstanton, Norfolk (0485 533576)

Ocean tunnel with deep-sea creatures. Also deserted seal pups cared for until returned to sea. £3.99, child £2.99.

□ **Sea Life Park**

Lodmoor Country Park,

Weymouth (0305 782555)

Ocean tunnel surrounds you with hundreds of marine creatures. Touch pool. Films of the world's oceans. £4.25, child £2.95.

□ **Sea Life Centre**

Clarence Esplanade,

Southsea, Portsmouth (0705 734461)

Life beneath the waves, British sharks, octopus. Touch pool. Different: piranhas, electric rays, moray eels. £3.85, child £2.60.

□ **Sea Life Centre**

Rock-a-Nore Road,

Hastings (0424 718776)

Multi-level viewing, tunnel tanks, sharks, octopus, stingrays. Touch pool. £3.95, child £2.75.

□ **Sea Life Centre**

Marine Parade, Brighton

(0273 604233)

Mixture of Victorian and modern display techniques for sharks, stingrays, octopus, fir-



Invasion of the giant penguins: IMAX screen at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford

TAKE THE FLEXIBLE ROUTE TO THE FLORIADE

Once a decade, the greatest flower show on earth. Go EuroBreak to The Hague or Amsterdam, between 15th April to 11th October, and experience The Floriade. Flights from 19 UK airports. Or go coach, car or rail. Top hotels, short, or long stay packages.

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Beamish North of England Open Air Museum
Beamish, Northumbria (0207 231811)
Re-created buildings with costumed staff: bread baking in coal-fired ovens, cheese-making, dentistry. Co-op's money taking-change return system. Draft mine, pit cottages. Travel by tramcar. £6, child £4.

Ewastow Castle
Museum and Country Park, Ewastow, near Derby (0332 573799)
Working estate from around 1910. Cottage with fire-heated irons, coal-burning grate, wash-house. Farrier, saddler. March-Oct, Wed-Sat afternoons, all day Sun, bank holidays. £1.20, child 60p.

Blists Hill Open Air Museum
Ironbridge Gorge

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

OUT AND ABOUT

31

tickle a stingray, look for electronic fleas and join in the monkey walk? See below!



Happy retirement: visit a veteran dolphin in Brighton

pets, anemones. Veteran dolphins, now retired. £3.95, child £2.90.

□ Sea Life Centre, Golden Mile Centre, Promenade, Blackpool (0253 22445)

Multi-level viewing of sharks, stingrays, conger eels among hundreds of other creatures. £4.75, child £3.75.

□ Sea Life Centre, Sealby Mills, Scarborough (0344 376125)

From shallowst watery deep, ocean tunnel for uninterrupted view of sharks, stingrays. £3.60, child £2.50.

□ Sea Life Centre, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll (0631 72386)

Multi-level viewing of hundreds of sea creatures, rock pools. Abandoned seal pups cared for before return to the wild. £3.85, child £2.50.

□ Sea Life Centre, The Scores, St Andrews, Fife (0344 74756)

Multi-level viewing of hundreds of sea creatures. Rock pools. Seal breeding programme and playful mammals to be viewed. £3.85, child £2.50.

□ Northern Ireland Aquarium, The Ropewalk, Castle Street, Portaferry, Co. Down (0247 728062)

Around 70 marine species found in Strangford Lough from octopus to conger eel. £1.50, child 85p.

□ Brixham Aquarium, The Quayside, Fricham (0803 882204)

Collection of specimens found in UK waters, sharks, octopus, conger eel, etc. Easter-Sept. 75p, child 50p.

□ A World of Nature, 15 Lansdown Road, Bude, Devon (0288 324223)

Aquariums with what you find thrown up on the tideline, such as crab, mermaid's purses, seaweed. Also woodland scene. 50p child 15p.

□ Natural World, The Quay, Pool (0202 636712)

Aquarium and serpentarium. snakes, piranhas, alligators. £2.95, child £2.

BIRDWORLD

□ Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Mill Road, Arundel, W. Sussex (093 883355)

Variety of ducks, geese, swans in pens, lakes, paddocks. Fun to feed them with correct food.

£3.50, child £1.75.

□ Sea Life Centre, Sealby Mills, Scarborough (0344 376125)

From shallowst watery deep, ocean tunnel for uninterrupted view of sharks, stingrays. £3.60, child £2.50.

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Aquarium and serpentarium. snakes, piranhas, alligators. £2.95, child £2.

of natterjack toads. £2.70, child £1.35.

□ Castle Espie Centre, 78 Ballydrain Road, Comber, Co. Down (0247 872517)

Ireland's largest collection of ducks, geese and swans. £2.20, child £1.10.

□ Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Penclawdd, Llwynhendy, Llanelli, Dyfed (0554 741087)

Newest and already attracting wildfowl like teal, shelduck, birds of prey. Most Wildfowl and Wetlands Centres have family tickets. £2.95, child £1.50.

□ Peaseholme Waterfowl Park and Nature Reserve, Fakenham, Cambs (0328 851465)

200 acres, lakes created from gravel pits. Torrent ducks, pygmy geese, oyster-catchers. Duck decoy shows how birds were once caught for market. April-Jan. £3.50, child £1.60.

□ Wildfowl and Underwaterworld, Holt Pound, Farnham, Surrey (0420 226668)

1,000 birds from tiny hanging parrots to ostrich. Additionally, massive aquariums with blind cave fish, piranha, coral. £3.50, child £1.80. Underwater: 95p and 45p.

□ Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, District 15, Washington, Tyne and Wear (091 416 5454)

Flock of flamingos all named after characters in Catherine Cookson's books are among 1,200 birds. £2.95, child £1.50.

□ Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Martin Mere, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancs (0704 895181)

45 acres of waterfowl gardens, with more than 1,600 species from all over the world. £3.50, child £1.75.

□ Tropical Bird Gardens, Rode, nr Bath (0373 830326)

In 17 acres of woodland, flower gardens, lakes, exotic birds free-flying or in cages. Breeding waterfowl, flamingos, parrots. £3.50, child £1.75.

□ IOW Rare Breeds and Waterfowl Park, Undercliffe Drive, St Lawrence, nr Ventnor (0983 852582)

Combination: 100 species of waterfowl and 40 rare breeds of cattle, deer, poultry in 30 acres. April-Oct. £2.10, child £1.30.

□ Bentley Wildfowl Reserve and Motor Museum, Halland, Nr Uckfield, E. Sussex (0825 840573)

1,000 waterfowl, geese, ducks, flamingos, cranes. Also collection of roadworthy vintage and veteran cars. March-Oct. £3.10, child £1.50.

□ Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Eastpark Farm, Carlaverock, Dumfriesshire (0387 772000)

Normally open Sept-April for wintering geese, but from this year open through summer too. Roe deer, merlins, colony



lage to see development from eggs to hatching. Behind glass: tarantulas, spiders. £2, child £1.25.

□ Newent Butterfly and Natural World Centre, Springbank, Birches Lane, Newent, Glos (0531 821800)

Tropical butterfly house, insect menagerie for creepy-crawly fans, reptiles. Easter-Oct. £2.25, child £1.45.

□ Berkeley Castle, Berkeley, Glos (0453 810332)

Free-flying butterflies housed

in walled garden of 800-year-old castle. Visit the great hall and enormous kitchens. April-Oct. £3.40, child £1.60.

□ Butterfly Centre, Royal Parade, Eastbourne (0323 645522)

Wander around tropical glasshouses among free-flying butterflies from all over the world. March-Nov. £2.25, child £1.25.

□ Worldwide Butterflies and Luffington Silk Farm, Compton House, Sherborne, W. Dorset (0935 74608)

Butterflies, moths, flying, breeding, in a stately home and its grounds, plus making English silk from ancient processes. April-Oct. £3.75, child £1.80.

□ New Forest Butterfly Farm, Longdown, Ashurst, nr Southampton (0703 293367)

Exotic butterflies and moths from around the world free-flying in jungle setting. Behind glass: scorpions, praying mantis. April-Oct. £3.30, child £2.30.

□ Living Jungle, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth (0493 842202)

Free-flying butterflies from faraway places. Behind glass: scorpions, tarantulas, huge green beetles. March-Oct. £2.85, child £1.30.

□ Seaford Tropical

Butterfly House, Seaford, Co. Down (0396 87225)

Hundreds of free-flying exotic butterflies. Behind glass, insects and reptiles from four continents. April-Sept. £2, child £1.20.

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR UNDER-FIVES

□ Marwell Zoological Park, Colder Common, near Winchester (0962 777406) Children's farmyard. Train rides through park. £5.20, child £2.40.

□ Children's Farm, Great Knoll Farm, Beckley, Kye (07972 60321)

Animals to feed, a rabbit village, miniature ponies. Easter-Oct. £3.75, child £1.75.

□ Dyrham Park, Alfriston, E. Sussex (0323 870234)

Viewing windows for monkey walk, meerkat mound, etc. at child level. Adventure playground for tots. Quizzes for three-year-olds upwards. £4.50, child £3.95.

□ Dinosaur World, Eirias Park, Croydon Bay, Chyd (0492 518111)

Tiny tots' "Dinosaur Play Area" has smaller, friendly

looking creatures. Easter

Sept. £1.50, child £1.

□ Playworld, Florlands Garden Centre, Catfoot Lane,

Lambley, Notts (0602 670487)

A separate under-fives area in children's playpark with real fire engine, assault course. Easter-Sept. £1, child £1.20.

□ Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (081 980 2415)

Saturday art workshops for three upwards with under-fives' own painting corner in enormous toy collection where children are expected to be heard and seen. Free.

□ Playtime at Kinderland, Sept. £1.50, child £1.

□ Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, New Romney, Kent (0679 62353)

Steam trains, one-third normal size and travelling slowly across marshes. Easter-Sep.

£6.90, child £3.45.

□ Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, Ravenglass, Cumbria (0229 717171)

Mostly steam driven, through wonderful scenery. April-Nov. £5.20, child £2.60.

□ Jonah's Journey, Rutherford Celebration Centre, Rosemount Place, Aberdeen (0224 647614)

Life in Biblical times. Dress up, make oil lamps etc. Puppets. 50p, child £1.

□ Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre, Sacrewell, Thornhaugh, Cambs (0780 782222)

Sand pit with child-sized manual farms tools for sowing and hoeing etc. Piglets, kids and lambs. £1, fives and under, free.

CLARE MACINTOSH



Meet Billy the kid: take the chance to act the goat and discover rabbits, ponies and other animals — even dinosaurs — at a children's farm

BUTTERFLIES

□ London Butterfly House, Syon Park, Middx (081-560 0881)

Dazzling collection of free-flying butterflies from around the world in tropical rainforest. Watch fo-

in walled garden of 800-year-old castle. Visit the great hall and enormous kitchens. April-Oct. £3.40, child £1.60.

□ Butterfly Centre, Royal Parade, Eastbourne (0323 645522)

Wander around tropical glasshouses among free-flying butterflies from all over the world. March-Nov. £2.25, child £1.25.

□ Butterfly and Falconry Park, Long Sutton, Spalding, Lincs (0406 363833)

Step into large, tropical butterfly house to observe (and photograph) free-flying creatures. Insectarium with scorpions, tarantulas, giant stick insects. Additionally raptor centre with falcons, hawks, eagles, owls. March-Nov. £2.80, child £1.80.

□ Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World, Dobbies Garden Centre, Lasswade, nr Edinburgh (031-663 4932)

Rainforest with plants, ponds where butterflies fly freely. Behind glass: scorpions, praying mantis. March-Oct. £2.85, child £1.30.

□ New Forest Butterfly Farm, Longdown, Ashurst, nr Southampton (0703 293367)

Exotic butterflies and moths from around the world free-flying in jungle setting. Behind glass: scorpions, tarantulas, huge green beetles. March-Oct. £2.85, child £1.30.

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HANDS-ON SCIENCE

□ Science Museum,

LEISURE

Splashing in a salad bowl

Valerie Grove
meets Europe's
most fashionable
swimming
instructor, who is in
Hampshire to teach
humbler mortals
the techniques he
has passed on to
stars and royalty



Golden youth: Pierre Gruneberg at Cap Ferrat in 1952

This is Pierre Gruneberg's charmed life. He spends the four summer months at the Hotel Bel-Air at Cap Ferrat on the Côte d'Azur. In the four winter months he is at Courchevel, at another grand hotel, Les Aigles, in the French Alps. In between, he spends two months in Paris, and two months travelling the world. "It is quite a nice arrangement. *Voilà.*"

What he did to deserve this life was to become, at the age of 18, a swimming instructor: not a route to global fame as a rule, but M Gruneberg is easily Europe's most fashionable. He has been teaching swimming on the Riviera for 40 years; he gave lessons to the families of Picasso, Cocteau, Charlie Chaplin, Onassis. And for the next few days he will be teaching swimming classes at Chevton Glen, the Hampshire hotel.

The story of M Gruneberg's love affair with his swimming pool is deeply romantic. His German parents (a lawyer and a teacher of English) brought him up in Paris, where he was destined to become an interpreter with UNO.

But when he hitch-hiked to the Riviera in 1949, hoping to earn money teaching swimming for the summer, he looked at Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo — and then saw the pool at the Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat (as it was then known), an Olympic-sized pool on a promontory overlooking the sea, and fell so deeply in love he never wanted to leave it. And he never has.

"I was in shorts and rucksack, and I asked to see the manager, an old man of 72, very nice but very strict. I said I would wait for hours. I did not care how long. Then I said to him, 'I have fallen in love with

your pool and I want to be your swimming instructor,' and he said, 'We have one already.' 'Well,' I said, 'maybe one day... and I speak English, French, German, Italian.' And he told me to wait a minute.

"The fellow they had did not speak languages. Then he brought out a picture of three beautiful girls in bathing costumes and asked me, 'What do you think of this picture?' I was panicking because I knew that my whole future depended on my answer. I was lucky because I gave him the answer he was hoping for: I said, 'These are beautiful girls, but I came here to work, not to chase girls.' And later I heard that the fellow they had was a terrible girl-chaser. The following month I got the contract for the first year, 1950."

It turned out to be his vocation: "I had to teach people to swim, to be with people. I think now I would have been a miserable interpreter." Celebrities who gravitated to the Riviera tended to congregate around his pool and even the most glamorous among them needed to learn to swim, or had children who did, or at least wanted to improve their crawl, with the *maître baigneur*.

So his leather-bound scrapbook contains the signatures, drawings and photographs of all the Riviera's most famous *habitues*. David Niven, Somerset Maugham (Maugham's house, La Mauresse, lately famous as the house Fergie went to with Steve Wyatt, is just next door)... Here is Picasso, who came in 1953 with Cocteau. Cocteau did that drawing for me, and Picasso did that. Here is Jacques Tati, on holiday like M Hulot, but I gave him a few tips. He has seen the Riviera change

"Here is Capucine the model, Onassis... I taught his daughter Christina to swim. This is a letter from Somerset Maugham inviting me to dinner... Adal Stevenson, Sacha Distel, Shirley Bassey — a wonderful pupil who really learnt how to crawl well — Donald Campbell and Tonia Bern, King Baudouin of the Belgians, King Umberto of Italy, Porfirio Rubirosa, Princess Soraya. Paul McCartney's children wrote me this little verse called 'Frog, scissor, pencil' because when you learn the breaststroke these are the three shapes you make: *grenouille, ciseaux, crayon*."

The succession of autographs is punctuated by press cuttings: how the *maître nageur* saved six people from drowning, how he coached the French team at the Melbourne Olympics, and how he introduced short skirts to France.

The skiing pictures are equally jet-setty. "Here are the Kennedy sisters, Pat and Jean, Uri Geller, Gerard Depardieu, the jockey Yves St Martin, Isabelle Adjani, Claire Bérenger, the cartoonist Johnny Hanlon, here is with his son Paul; here is Brigitte Bardot who has said with me several times at Courchevel."

Most people's family albums turn out to be dominated by poolside, siding or other holiday-location scenes with everyone smiling, tanned and happy: imagine, M Gruneberg says, for him every day is like this. He is the most contented soul. He sees people at their best, in their most relaxed mood. When not teaching he is organising races, gymnastic classes, fancy-dress parties.

He has seen the Riviera change



In at the deep end: Pierre Gruneberg prepares his teaching aids for his lessons at Chevton Glen hotel in Hampshire

completely, from a local resort where well-to-do doctors and business men lived, who would visit the pool with their families. "Today it is more clients: Saudis, Japanese and so on. It is a different world: not worse or better, but different." (The hotel is now Japanese owned: they also have the Bel Air in Hollywood, hence the renaming.)

He says he could teach anyone to swim in half an hour: the secret is to begin simply. "I like to make difficult things easy for people. I'm not interested in training kids who are very, very good: I want to make difficult sports easy." So when he

teaches wind-surfing, he starts people off in the swimming pool, because the main problem is getting up; when he teaches swimming, he starts them off not in the pool but in a salad bowl.

Breathing is the main problem with swimming. "Ninety per cent of the people I have taught had problems with breathing. But in the pool, they panic, so I take them out of the water and show them scientifically in a salad bowl because it is transparent. First I teach people how to blow bubbles

and sing out, exhaling slowly, into the bowl. Instead of saying blow, which makes them think they have no air left, I say 'sing' and they sing out bubbles under the water. It is an extremely simple method. We spend half an hour or three quarters on this before getting into the water at all."

A friend of mine who always used to swim like a swan, with neck stuck out of the water, had half an hour with M Gruneberg last year and has been swimming like a fish ever since."

Every day M Gruneberg swims three miles in the sea at Cap Ferrat.

■ Pierre Gruneberg will be at Chevton Glen until Thursday, April 16 (0425 275341)

Cracking up over Easter eggs? Maybe now is the time to make a change...

Gifts with a difference

Eggs have been inseparable from Easter as a symbol of spiritual resurrection since the dawn of Christianity. The first chocolate eggs were produced in France in the early 19th century, and today the British spend about £2.14 million each year on them.

But for those reluctant to spend a lot for fancy packaging containing only a little chocolate, there are imaginative alternative Easter gifts available by mail order.

• Humorous set of six sterling silver, egg-shaped place-card holders, each with a different facial expression, costs £460 (£3 p&p, free delivery in London) from Garrard, 112 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 7020). P&p extra.

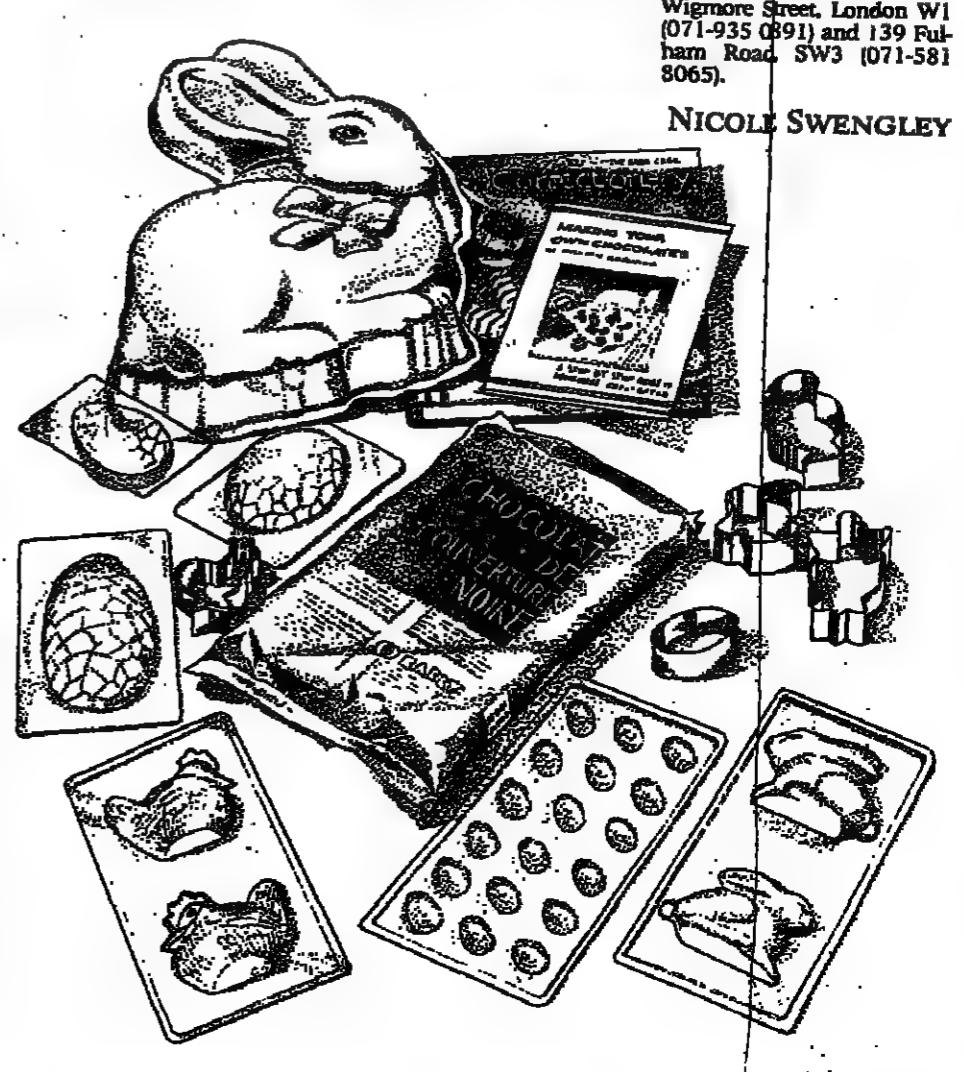
• Hand-painted porcelain Herend rabbit in green, blue or rust, £76 per pair; chubby single bunny, £130; porcelain bird-with-egg trinket boxes by artist Philippe Deshoulier, £50 each; long-handled horn egg spoons, from £30, All from Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-499 2823). P&p extra.

• Realistic looking 10in-tall yolky breakfast egg in a yellow, black or green eggcup is really a teapot in disguise, £26.85 plus £3.95 p&p from the Tea House, 15 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 0135).

• Potato plant with a broadleaf sapling costs £17.50 from the non-profit-making organisation Heritage Conserved. Landowners receive legal title to a 6ft square plot by way of a decorated deed and location map showing where their sapling is planted. From Heritage Conserved, Afallon, High Street, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5AR (0691 84749).

• Beatrix Potter Peter Rabbit slippers for children £8.75 plus £1.75 p&p from Frog Hollow, 15 Victoria Grove, London W11 (071-581 5493).

• Simnel cakes have been associated with Easter for more than 300 years. The name derives from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine flour. Traditional simnel cakes attractively decorated with a marzipan nest and praline songbird eggs cost £15.95 plus £5.20 p&p from the Harrogate Bakery, Betty's By Post (0423 531211). Last telephone orders to be received by Monday.



Conduit Street, London W1 (071-629 0600). Gem-set Fabergé eggs from £1,500 and some Kuslai eggs from about £1,000. In the N. Bloom concession in Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-730 1234).

• Mexican brightly coloured 18-in tin chicken candle sconces, £27 plus £3 p&p from Neal Street, East, 5 Neal Street, WC2 (071-240 0135).

• Colossal wooden Polish eggs, £1.50 each; chocolate "dinosau" eggs, £1.25 from The Museum Store, 37 The Market, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 5760).

• Easter eggs (longiflorum), with their white trumpet blooms, have a delicate perfume and cost £14.99 for five stems, or £19 for ten, including nationwide delivery, from Exotic Direct (0798 812340). Orders by Wednesday.

• Hand-painted enamel Limoges egg-shaped opening boxes in a range of designs cost about £35 inc. p&p from Direct Import, Clapton Manor, Clapton-on-the-Hill, Bourn-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire GL54 2LG (0451 20255).

• Silver egg cufflinks, £55, also other animal shapes from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234).

• Easter filler (longiflorum), with their white trumpet blooms, have a delicate perfume and cost £14.99 for five stems, or £19 for ten, including nationwide delivery, from Exotic Direct (0798 812340). Orders by Wednesday.

• Fabergé clear crystal egg with fine lines of golden rutile, £1,950 from N. Bloom, 40

Conduit Street, London W1 (071-935 0891) and 139 Fulham Road, SW3 (071-581 8065).

NICOLE SWENGLY

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Pottery exotica from a Brixton kiln

STEPHEN MARKSON

Although the Prince of Wales liked her work, potter Kate Byrne still felt she had to run away to build her self-confidence. Vinny Lee reports

Kate Byrne is busy tending the tropical menagerie she has created. Two large dodos — one resplendent with a plumed headdress (reminiscent of Diana Cooper's favourite feather-adorned hat), the other with a quizzical grin — sit in a corner looking at each other.

Below them on a table, bobbled geckos scamper over stacks of brightly coloured plates and saucers. Shelves are stacked with bunches of vivid yellow, orange and green prickly pears, star fruit, sugar apples and mangoes hanging on bows, cups and mugs.

"Don't touch, they're hot," warns the protectively gloved potter, as she unloads another batch of her painted wares from the kiln. Ms Byrne's exotic haven — in the grime and bustle of Brixton, south London — is all her own making. This time last year it was like an underwater cavern, filled with row upon row of pottery fish shaped into toothbrush holders, light pulls, soap and cotton-wool bowls.

Ms Byrne started her ceramics business in October 1985, with financial help from the Enterprise Allowance scheme.

Her talent was recognised early on — all the work she prepared for her degree show was bought at her college end-of-term exhibition.

When Liberty opened its bathroom shop in the basement of its Regent Street store in London, it commissioned Ms Byrne to design a range of bathroom accessories — hence the shoals of fish dishes and holders.

She also may have a royal fan. To commemorate his official opening of the studio workshop in Deptford, south London (where Ms Byrne used to be based), the Prince of Wales was presented with one of her bird-shaped jugs.

Later, when the Prince had gone, his equerry came back to her workshop and bought two more bird jugs, destination unknown — "but I like to think they were for the Prince," Ms Byrne says.

Stuart Mansell and Jane Hill of J.K. Hill British Studio Ceramics are also aware of Ms Byrne's talent



Far from extinct: Kate Byrne with her sculpted dodos in the colourful, tropical paradise she has created in her Brixton studio, where the Prince of Wales's equerry came to buy several of her bird jugs

and are providing the venue for her solo show from April 14 to May 2 at their Old Brompton Road, London, studio.

"It is difficult to find a potter with the diversity to justify a solo exhibition," Mr Mansell says. "But Kate's work is not only very fine in its execution, but also has variety and a great use of colour."

Among the more than 70 pieces of work on show will be examples of her studio sculpture, such as the two large dodos (about £600 each), two strutting cockatoos (20in high), a hen apparently sitting on eggs, a set

of running ducks and various large, carved and decorated pots, one featuring leaping fish that form the spout and handles.

As well as the one-off sculptural work, Ms Byrne will also be showing and selling her tableware. The brightly coloured, Spanish-style gecko and fruit designs start at £12.50 for a soup or cereal bowl, £17.04 for an 8in side plate and £17.50 for mugs and jugs. Prices rise to £21.74 for dinner plates, £37.60 for a serving platter and £54 for a teapot.

The inspiration for the gecko and

fruit designs came last summer when Ms Byrne "ran away".

"I was caught in a vicious circle," she explains. "Orders came in for the hand-painted, press-moulded ranges I had been producing for some time, and I was constantly working to fulfil those orders. I couldn't find the time to develop new ideas or to do any sculptural work, which is my first love."

"In the end I decided that the only way to resolve the problem was to go away."

"So I finished all the orders I had taken and then went off to Spain

and Greece and worked in a bar for a couple of months.

"I did a little painting, but mainly relaxed and learnt to be more assertive."

Ms Byrne's next collection may have an even more exotic theme, because she will be spending four weeks from the end of May working in the Philippines.

"I was approached by John Jenkins, a firm of china importers to send some photographs of my work, to help other potters to create colour schemes and new styles will be a wonderful change from the days when I used

to hand-paint fish dishes by the hundred."

• Kate Byrne's exhibition from April 14 to May 2 is at J.K. Hill, British Studio Ceramics, 89 Old Brompton Road, SW3. Open Monday to Friday, 9.30am-8pm; Saturday, 9.30am-7pm; Sunday, 3-7pm. Further details about the exhibition from 071-584 7529.

• For details of stockists nationwide contact Kate Byrne at Clockwise Studios, 38 Southwell Road, SE5 9PG (071-274 0034). Her work will also be shown at the Alternative Eye, Chisenhale Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 from April 30 to May 4. Opening times 10am-6pm daily. Admission £5.

Taking up royal alms

Next week dealers will be hoping to snap up some of the Queen's Maundy money

will be Silver Pennies & Linen Towels, *The Story of the Royal Maundy*, published by Spink (£29.95), which is an essential guide to other categories of royal alms, such as the King's Dole.

Maundy comes from the

Latin *mandatum*, or commandment, and refers to the moment when, after washing the disciples' feet, Christ delivered the command: "I have set you an example; you are to do as I have done for you."

Following his example of

humility, Edward II started the tradition in 1213 of giving food, clothing and money to 13 poor men on Maundy Thursday. Henry IV decided to link the number of recipients with the sovereign's age, a practice that continued today (this year, the Queen will give 66 pence to 66 men and 66

maundy money dates from 1670; the profile heads on one side change with the monarch. The earlier the monarch, on the whole, the more endearing the image.

Despite surviving 700 years, the Maundy ceremony nearly died in the 1930s when, according to the Right Reverend David Say, the Lord High Almoner from 1970 to 1988, it was "in danger of becoming nothing but a picturesque and perhaps rather meaningless survival from the past".

The present queen's decision to hold the ceremony in different parts of the country, returning to London once every ten years, has given it a new lease of life, he says.

Mr Rasmussen at Spink says collectors tend to acquire coins one by one, with the intention of building up a complete set. Sources are the numerous coin fairs which take place throughout the country, and specialist dealers.

SARAH JANE
CHECKLAND

• Silver Pennies & Linen Towels (Spink & Son, King Street, W1, 071-930 7888, £29.95).

• See *The Times* English Civil War commemorative coin offer, page 37.

Alms: a complete set of Maundy money could fetch £250

The annual ritual of distributing the Maundy money will take place in Chester cathedral next Thursday. This, the day before Good Friday, is when the monarch gives specially minted coins to a group of "deserving pensioners", while dealers play the role of money-changers in the temple, trying to acquire the coins for resale to collectors.

Buckingham Palace is smirking about this secondary ritual, saying it soils one of our most ancient traditions. But the dealers say that the original purpose of Maundy money, or the Royal Bounty as it is also called, was alms.

"The choice lies with the recipients whether to sell," Michael Harrison, of Coins International of Leeds, says. "The value of the coins may mean more to them than that of cherishing them," he says, adding that a pensioner can exchange a full presentation set for around £250.

It may come as a surprise, therefore, to discover that Maundy money from earlier eras is under-valued as a collectable. A James II set, as new, would be worth £400 to £500, but most sets are valued at £50 to £150.

Maundy money can be recommended as an ideal field for anyone thinking of starting a collection. "They are an endearing little series of coins," Mark Rasmussen, an expert at Spink and Son, the dealers and auctioneers, says. They are also the only British coins produced today in sterling silver.

One useful tool for collectors



Buying beautiful designer curtains can be cheaper than you might think

Draped in style

curtains led me on an endless round of auctions."

The answer was to set up her own secondhand shop in Fulham, shortly after Liz Meston and Julian Galvin had started a similar venture in Boxford, near Colchester, Essex. Then the three got to know about each other and decided to pool their ideas.

Customers wishing to sell agree a price with the shop and leave the curtains for up to six months, after which they

are either returned or sent to the charity Shelter. The Curtain Exchange will arrange to collect, takes 40 per cent of the selling price, and never discloses the identity of a vendor.

The group turns away curtains it thinks unlikely to sell. Brown is the least popular colour, and 1960s styles with braided borders do not sell well. "Blue and yellow are popular, and terracotta, chintzes, plain calicos and linens are doing well. Men

seem to like green," Mrs Horsford says.

Among those for sale are a shot silk, pinch-pleated, lined pair with an 84in drop for an 8ft-wide window at £270, and a pair in calico, 140in wide with a 12ft drop, for £420.

The curtains come from private houses, interior designers recouping money from mistakes they have made, show flats and hotels.

KAY MARLES

• For branches, call Mrs Horsford at The Curtain Exchange, 133 Stephendale Road, London SW6 (071-731 8316).



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Taking stock of country life in the raw: Gudrun Holmes and her son Beorn, aged 12, at their isolated stone-built Welsh cottage, a two-mile walk to the nearest road

Alone in the magic valley

In search of the good life, the Holmeses from London tell Brenda Parry how they survive in the wilds of Snowdonia

Many would envy the away-from-it-all lives of Clyde and Gudrun Holmes, but others would shudder at the prospect of doing without the basic home comforts, such as electricity and running water.

Later-day hippies they are not: Mr Holmes is a successful landscape artist and poet, and Mrs Holmes a German interpreter for Frankfurt University. Twenty years ago, while living in Hampstead, north London, they saw in the ruins of a deserted shepherd's cottage in Snowdonia the chance for a simple, uncultured lifestyle.

Arranging to meet the Holmeses was difficult: they have no telephone and even the postman can't make it to the door. A series of messages left with friends eventually brought Mr Holmes to a public telephone. "You will find us on an Ordnance Survey map," he said, giving me a precise reference. "You can bring the car fairly close, but you will have to walk the final mile or so."

The two-mile walk to Cwm Hesgin can be treacherous, even in spring, but despite the wind and rain there was no mistaking the magic of this remote valley. All signs of civilisation drop from sight; only the screech of buzzards breaks the silence. It was not difficult to believe that last winter their daughter Malka's boyfriend nearly died after collapsing in a snowdrift.

Why move to such a place? "I had lived in the Ruhr in Germany and loved London's concert halls and galleries, but they served only as a compensation for the traffic and noise of the city," Mrs Holmes says. "I never had the rounded and

complete life that I have here."

Mr Holmes was born and brought up in London and went to St Martin's and Hornsey Colleges of art after London University. He and his wife had spent little time in the countryside. Now, his first task of the day, at 6am, is to draw and carry eight buckets of water from a well 50 yards away from the cottage for washing and cooking.

The lifestyle in Cwm Hesgin is quiet and gentle, even though there is a steady trickle of visitors who arrive in time for lunch, and invariably stay until the following morning. Mr Holmes paints only in natural light; in the evenings he works on his poetry, sometimes until 2am. Mrs Holmes writes all her translations by hand. They often work late into the night by the light of paraffin lamps and candles.

The family takes it in turn to cook their vegetarian meals. Mrs Holmes tackles delicious pies, cakes and bread. As well as the wood-burning Rayburn, they use Calor gas for cooking.

The north Wales retreat was suggested to them while they were house hunting on a large Welsh estate. Cwm Hesgin was a derelict cottage, roofless and deserted for 20 years. For more than a year, they hitch-hiked to and from Wales every weekend, making the cottage habitable. Twenty years later they believe they have blended in with their magnificent surroundings of heather-clad hills, with gentle streams and waterfalls and a tiny lake strewn with water lilies.

As I sat enjoying a freshly baked apple tart in the kitchen, there was little to suggest that life was anything but wonderful for the couple and their two children, Malka, aged 20, and Beorn, 12.

The house, with its quarry-tiled floors, pretty rugs, heavily-carved oak furniture (picked up over the years), and Mr Holmes's paintings on the walls, could be from the pages of *Home and Gardens*. And yet, the lavatory is outside and bathing is a stand-up affair.

In summer, it is difficult to keep things cool, and in winter there is the opposite problem: the house is heated by the wood-burning stove, an open fire and a tiny stove from an old Canadian railway engine.

Necessities, such as Calor gas cylinders for the cooker and the week's groceries, are bought in Bala, five miles away, and handed to the house by the family. Mountain bikes, however, have made it much easier to pick up the mail and the milk, which is delivered to a point on a road nearly two miles away.

"Thursday is certainly an important day in our lives," Mrs Holmes says. "That's the day I take the washing to the laundrette in Bala. Some friends say this is a very non-alternative thing to do, but I don't care. Neither do I care that we might look like Bedouins carting a week's shopping, washing and paraffin back to the bus."

Mr Holmes says it took about two years for the romance of moving into the cottage to merge

into reality, despite the weather sometimes preventing them leaving the house for days. The summer months are the best, when they can swim in the lake and night and day seem to merge into one.

Malka, who was educated by her parents up to A-level, has recently spent a year at college doing a fine arts foundation course. "I liked the telly and being able to switch on the fire at will, but I can't say I ever miss them," she says.

Beorn had his primary education at home, but because of the demands of the national curriculum he is now in his second year at the secondary school in Bala. He walks two miles to the road and takes a taxi for the remaining three.

The family's only concession to modernity is a radio — vital for weather forecasts. "Our life is governed by the weather," Mr Holmes says. "When I feel the need for solitude, then I have it."

But even in Cwm Hesgin there is no escape from 20th-century technology. Since the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster, the beautiful valley has shown more signs of radiation than anywhere else in the area. The Holmes can no longer grow their own vegetables or milk their goat, and sheep in the area are still the subject of government restrictions.

But while the land is contaminated, the water from the seemingly bottomless well is still pure, otherwise the Holmes could be facing a very different future.

at the Victoria & Albert exhibition of works by artists painting in the National Parks. His painting, like his poetry, is highly acclaimed.

While he works, Mrs Holmes often entertains. The family has friends around the world. Hill-walkers who have sought shelter at the house when the weather has turned bad often join that circle.

"Just because I live in a lonely place, doesn't mean I have to cut myself off from what is happening in the rest of the world," Mrs Holmes says. "When I feel the need for solitude, then I have it."

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Heap of the week: Combe Abbey

A prize to cherish

THERE are almost as many ducks and swans on the moat at Combe Abbey as in St James's Park, London. But venture inside the house and talk to the ladies who run medieval banquets in the ground-floor rooms and they say: "We cross our fingers and hope the rain doesn't pour through the ceiling."

As an "economy" measure the council decided to stop all maintenance in 1985, just after completing extensive stonework repairs. Outside, there are no obvious signs of slipped stones. "If the hidden gutters which are choked with dead pigeons," was told. "As a result the water gradually works its way into the roof and down through the ceilings. In the cloister the falling damp now meets the rising damp."

Coventry Council is unlikely to serve a repairs notice on itself and though Combe is a Grade I building, the secretary of state for the environment has only been known to intervene on three occasions in 20 years to demand the repair of a decaying building. Perhaps a visit from the national audit office would help.

The council has therefore turned to commercial development as the solution, drawing up a scheme with Lumley Castle Ltd, the medieval banquet hotel in Co Durham and the parent company of the Combe operation.

What has understandably incensed Coventry's Georgian Group is that outline planning permission was pushed through by Rugby District Council before detailed plans were submitted, in breach of normal listed building practice. The group is also opposing plans to create a golf course in the Capability Brown park and an application to build a visitors' centre beside the entrance avenue.

Reassurance may come from the quality of the advisory team recruited by Millington's, the consultants promoting the scheme. It includes the leading archaeologist Warwick Rodwell.

the conservation architect Martin Ashley, and Hal Moggridge, the landscape architect. It is hoped that English Heritage will make it a condition of any listed building consent that this team is kept together.

The abbey, founded in 1150, became the richest in Warwickshire, but after the Dissolution it was sold in 1622 to the Cravens and remained in the family until 1923. The cloister walks date from the 15th century. The pedimented west range, added to the designs of Captain William Winde in the 1680s, is one of the most handsome Charles II fronts in the country. A vast east wing was added in the 1860s by the gifted architect W. Eden Nesfield, whose father laid out the formal gardens.

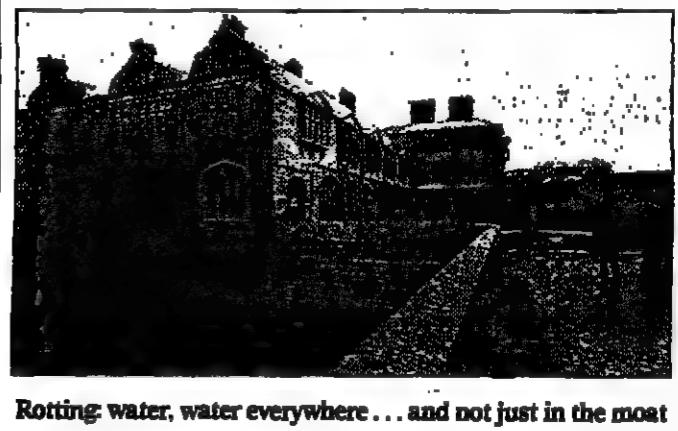
In the 1920s the house was sold to a local builder, who stripped fireplaces, woodwork and ceilings and gradually demolished the house to leave a single wing to live in.

Fortunately, during a three-day sale in 1925, many items were left unsold and remained in the house. During the second world war, the RAF moved in and in the 1960s, Coventry Council bought the house and set about reacquiring the parkland.

One course now would be to reconstruct the Nesfield's demolished wing on the surviving, early foundations. Mr Ashley says he is committed to creating a new wing in keeping with the house and in the spirit of Nesfield. Everything therefore depends on the quality of his solution and the willingness of the developers to use good materials. Given the importance of Combe, nothing short of the best is acceptable.

MARCUS BINNEY

• Further information from David Bates of Millington's on 0908 691944 or Mr Patel at Coventry Leisure Services 0203 833333.



Rotting water, water everywhere... and not just in the moat

Homing in on handouts

How one man saved more than £60,000 restoring his house with the aid of grants

Walk up the stone front steps of Roger Howe's Georgian terraced house in Twickenham, knock on the dark green door, and one is transported back to the 18th century. The house is model Palladian, with its original brick, complete with lime pointing, sash windows with their box shutters, and perfect proportions.

Yet only 18 months ago the house was a confusion of Victorians and 1960s extensions. Expensive work, surely? In fact, Mr Howe took advantage of a number of little-publicised government grants and concessions which contributed a hefty £61,501 to his £142,512 bill. As the owner of a Grade II* listed house (a starred Grade II house is more historically interesting than just Grade II), most of his alterations were free of VAT, saving £25,583.

He also received £13,818 in grants from English Heritage and Richmond council, and indirectly saved an estimated £22,100 through free advice from English Heritage and the council's conservation office. The advice saved him from unnecessary work builders might have foisted on him.

The key to unlocking government money for restoring your house, be it listed or not, is the council. Planners must approve



blueprints before they concede a penny in grants or VAT.

Most people ask an architect or surveyor to draw up plans. For a house like Mr Howe's, Renaissance, a Bath-based company which specialises in restoring listed buildings, charges about £1,200.

Applying for government grants is surprisingly informal. The local

planner and architect will discuss improvements and possible grant assistance, usually on site. Grants, which can pay up to 40 per cent of individual refurbishment costs, come from councils (£26 million last year) and English Heritage (£33 million), both of which fund the reinstatement of architectural features and environmental improvements. English Heritage tends to award money for what are deemed more historically important buildings, or buildings at risk.

There are 700,000 listed buildings in Britain, and 8,000 conservation areas in which similar rules apply. But getting at the benefits is obfuscated by a government which does not advertise them.

The general financial system is in place, but only a few people know how to supplement grants with VAT. On average, you could save £10,000 on a typical bill," Mr Robinson says.

However, John Sell, architect and former chairman of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, warns: "Only a minority of listed buildings will obtain grants from English Heritage. A large proportion of work needed to keep historic buildings in good repair will be charged for VAT."

Far from preserving historic buildings, the present VAT rules encourage the destruction of original historic fabric, he argues, as VAT concession applies to alterations rather than repairs.

RACHEL KELLY

Plugged in to history

HOUSE HUNTER

Tangmere Cottage Chichester



Tangmere: a safe house for wartime flyers and Resistance fighters

After the war Tangmere, near Chichester, was extended and returned to use as a family house, with six bedrooms, three bathrooms, swimming pool, and tennis court.

The only evidence of its past life is a plug socket in the dining-room floor — put there when it was an operations room.

ANN MORRIS

• Jackson Stops & Staff, Chichester (0243 786316)

Four up, two down



Buyers' Italy

TUSCANY

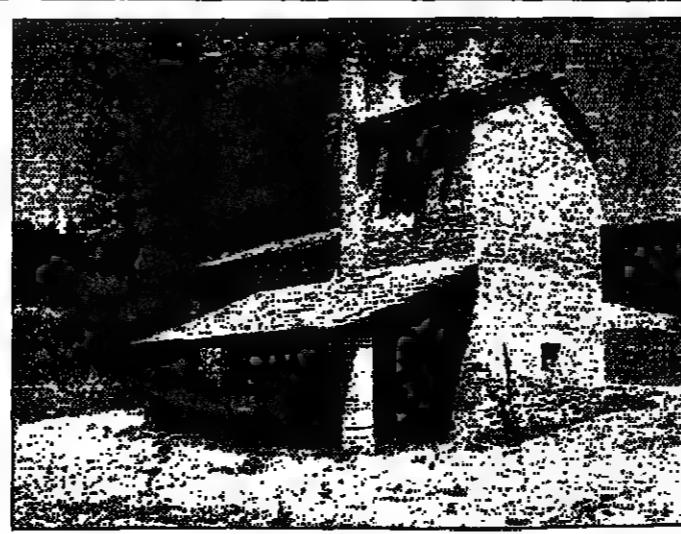
ON THE borders of Tuscany and Umbria, this stone farm building, with half an acre of land, is for sale at £24,864. Close to the village of Petrelle, it is 15km from Trestina, which is on the main train line, and the international airport at Florence can be reached in 90 minutes.

The building is structurally sound, but requires extensive work to make it habitable to modern standards. The access

road is good and electricity is available nearby, but a well needs to be dug for water. It has a large kitchen and living room on the ground floor; two bedrooms and a primitive bathroom upstairs and a third bedroom in the tower.

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Information: Brian A. French & Associates, 12 High Street, Knaresborough, North Yorks (0423 367047 or 071-284 0114).



Unrestored: this stone farmhouse in half an acre will cost £24,864

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

GARDENING

Beauty across the border

Francesca

Greenoak explores

Edinburgh's impressive Royal Botanic Garden

Beautifully set in 65 acres of hillside to the north of Edinburgh, the Royal Botanic Garden is a compulsory stopping place on any gardener's itinerary. Even on a grey day, this well-kept garden is welcoming, inviting you to enjoy a horticultural excellence hard to match, and some of the best views over the city.

There is a fine long list of important plants and collections, but it is particular details which attract the individual visitor. For me it was the trees among them mature oaks, cedars, beech, monkey puzzle and southern beech (*Nothofagus*).

There is an impressive collection of birches, looking their best at this time of year, with their delicate branching, and differently coloured barks. The dazzling white *Betula jacquemontii*, in the form known as Inverleith (after this garden), keeps its pallor and shape into maturity.

Alder trees are favourites of mine, so I was delighted to see one new to me: the graceful *Alnus firma*, a Japanese species with beautiful green-gold male catkins, followed by toothed leaves almost as deeply veined as hornbeam foliage. I was also pleased to find a fine specimen of the Montpellier maple (similar to field maple but with three-lobed leaves). This is another small, unusual tree which could be grown in more gardens.

The most spectacular residents in the sheltered southeastern corner of the garden, which is reserved for heat plants, are tree heathers — not always reliably hardy but here reaching 10 feet, billowing with dense flower-filled foliage.

The famous rock garden, recently restored, is dotted with spring flowers, including several geographical forms of the most graceful daffodils of all, the wild *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. There are also tulips from northern America, spring gentians, and early primulas.

The best view of the city is from the high rhododendron walk, which circles Inverleith House. Within the shady recesses provided by these great showy plants grow



DAVID HUTCHISON

Studied delight: Michael Barrett, a horticulture student, among the magnificent rhododendrons which encircle Inverleith House

tender species, such as the blushing-flowered *R. revoluta*. Emerging on the far side, you drop down to one of the longest herbaceous borders in Britain (quiet at this time of year) and backed by a most beautifully kept beech hedge, immensely tall and narrow, like a formal 17th-century screen.

Hedges become a theme in the recently created demonstration area, which has a wide range of hedging plants, all perfectly maintained and clearly labelled. These hedges also serve as bays for other displays: shrubs recommended for Scottish gardens, threatened native plants, and botanical display beds with special relevance to gardeners.

Although the different growing areas are continuously enriched by research work carried out by the botanists attached to them, the learning is lightly worn. The policy is to delight and educate rather than thrust knowledge at you. Even

the glasshouses which contain the research collections are designed to please the eye and senses.

The main exhibition house, cleverly built with an external skeleton to give unimpeded scope within, is sectioned off into a temperate area, a warm humid forest of tree ferns, cacti in dry cool (restraining growth until light levels improve), and two aquatic houses.

Victoria water-lilies are a summertime speciality in the tropical

pool. An underground gallery enables visitors to view the elegant and complicated veining of the huge leaves from beneath, a characteristic idea for a botanic garden which everywhere encourages appreciation of the unusual as well as the obvious beauty of plants.

● The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Inverleith Row, Canonmills (1½ miles north of the city centre). Open daily (except Dec 25/Jan 1), spring 10am-6pm, summer 10am-8pm. Free.

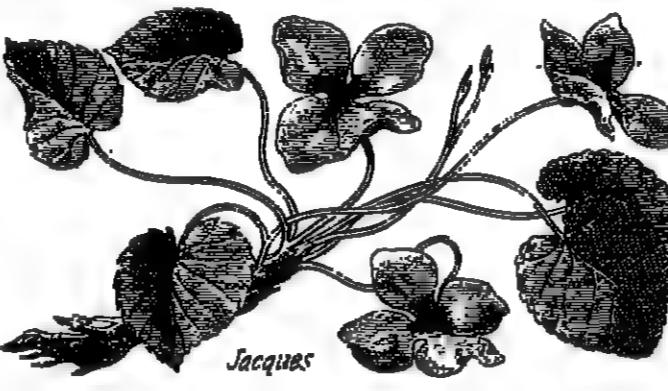
● Plant bare-rooted trees or bushes (including roses) now.

● Dig deep-rooted weeds, such as dandelion, out of lawns with a thin-bladed trowel.

● Prune forsythia, flowering currants and spring-flowering shrubs blooms fade.

● Sow greenhouse and conservatory plants, such as aubrieta, browallia and Campanula (Sophyra).

● Plant asparagus crowns in well-drained, weed-free ground.

Spring's sweet scented herald: *Viola odorata* enhances paths

BEST BUY

THE scented violet, one of the most sweetly fragrant early spring flowers, is easy to grow and will self-seed into cracks and alongside paths, but it is not always easy to obtain. There are several forms, all hardy: the white and double white, the deep pink Coeur d'Alsace or new Pink Beauty. A selection of seven scented violets is available from the specialist growers Paradise Centre, Twinstead Road, Lammas, near Bures, Suffolk CO8 5EX; £16.50 inc p&p, or £30 for two packs. Despatched in May.

● Plant bare-rooted trees or bushes (including roses) now.

● Dig deep-rooted weeds, such as dandelion, out of lawns with a thin-bladed trowel.

● Prune forsythia, flowering currants and spring-flowering shrubs blooms fade.

● Sow greenhouse and conservatory plants, such as aubrieta, browallia and Campanula (Sophyra).

● Plant asparagus crowns in well-drained, weed-free ground.

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3

How to buy a crown of thorns



Among the worn red plush and the crackle of 500-franc notes: bidders for sacred objects as they are held up for show in the auction rooms of the Hotel Drouot.

Josephine Akrill goes to the High Temple of French auction houses and watches the Parisians who will buy anything at the fall of the hammer

In the heart of Paris's ninth arrondissement, a stone's throw away from the Galeries Lafayette, that cathedral to French consumerism, a motley crowd of pilgrims gather outside a more ancient shrine. *Hauts fonctionnaires* and their fu-coated minions brush with bikers and backpackers, all waiting to get off the busy boulevard Haussmann and into the High Temple of Parisian auction-houses, the Hotel Drouot.

Parisians rich and poor come to pitch their bids in Drouot's genteel but worn red-plush rooms, or simply to imbibe the money-laden atmosphere, and listen to the crackle of the 500-franc notes changing hands.

On sale mornings, when the day's offerings are laid out like ritual sacrifices, heavy-breathing gentlemen in horn-rimmed spectacles steam up the glass cases crammed with Cartier ducks. Priceless pearl chokers are handed out for inspection as nonchalance as glass beads, to be lovingly caressed by immaculately manicured hands.

Elbowing furiously for that delicious little enamelled jewel-box, the punters are ticked off like children in a sweetshop by the Chanel-suited *surveillante* — "Asseyez-vous et attendez votre tour!"

Wine-lovers parading in front of shelves of dusty *grands crus* bare their teeth and exchange barbed comments. "I'd call my doctor before tasting that '49 Brouilly", quips one oenological expert. "Imbécile", spits an anonymous rival from somewhere in the crowd.

Whispered bids are left furiously with the commissaires, fresh-faced youths in gilt-buttoned, scar-

let-braded suits. Such absentees bidders were scorned by the 19th-century art-critic Champfleury, who likened them to that butt of French humour, the Englishman, who, reading about the view of Paris from the Pantheon, sent up his servant to take a look for him!

The cheap and cheery "ventes classiques" reveal Drouot at its most enchanting and affordable. A lapdog in a Vuitton handbag suspiciously sniffs a 1950s pinball machine, whilst its mistress rummages through a boxful of dolls including Barbie, Pierrot, and Mickey Mouse, estimated at 150 francs.

Voters disillusioned with the current "crise politique" could treat themselves to a framed pornographic cartoon of Mitterrand, Cresson and company in a daring array of compromising positions.

A rare glimpse into the intimate details of Gallic life can be had at Drouot's renowned specialist sales, which range from an auction of Freemasonry memorabilia to a sale entitled "Les Arts de la Table", where bidders compete for a "cuillère à os à moelle" — a long-handled spoon allowing the true gourmet to scoop the marrow out of a bone with careless elegance.

"Life was so much more varied in the past," sighs Sophie, a Drouot clerk preparing for an afternoon sale. "Take these chairs — one for playing cards, another for feeding the baby, a third for listening to the

harpischord. Everything is so multifunctional nowadays. People come here to forget their humdrum daily lives and dream a little."

Joseph, May and a bevy of saints are up for grabs in Room Seven. Of the scores of collectors and zealots who have come from all over France for this unique sale of "objets sacrés", some, inevitably, are disappointed. A woman who has rushed in from Marseilles, desperate for a stone statue of Saint Matthew, has to make do with plaster versions of Peter and Paul.

Others openly display their outrage at seeing the image of their Lord up for auction. "Je trouve ça scandaleux," announces one poker-faced woman, nevertheless taking a good squirt through her pince-nez at a shell-encrusted reliquary containing a morsel of Saint Ursula's skull. She'll be back to bid for it the very same afternoon.

"Everything finds a buyer here at Drouot," explains Sophie, over lunch at the Beaujolais bar opposite the Hotel. "We once auctioned off a guillotined head in a glass jar — reputedly the handwriting of the last executioner in France."

Most spectacular are the "château" auctions, when an ancient country seat is stripped of its contents. The duster the lots, the more frenzied the bidding. "One castle had an attic full of pigeons — and a treasure-trove of Louis

Quinze furniture two inches thick in bird-droppings. The stench was unbearable, but the bidding went through the roof!"

France's highly-qualified auctioneers, known as "commissaires", enjoy a far from dull working life. The six years of studies which qualify them for the title of "Maître", include Law and Art History, but, not surprisingly, the dramatic arts, as one might suppose from their antics in the auction-room.

According to Eric, a "cierge" whose job is to encourage reluctant bidders, the Drouot auctioneers are as superstitious as the actors at the nearby Comédie Française. "You should see the crisis we go through when their favourite ivory mallet goes missing and they're forced to adjudicate with a wooden one."

At 2.30pm, the crowds jostle in through the doors, eager for front seats at the afternoon performance. In the religious room, bidding is under way, with a piece of the True Cross a bargain at 400 francs. "I'll look lovely on your bedroom wall, Madame," quips the auctioneer, illustrating, whilst introducing the next lot, a 17th-century walnut sculpture of Christ, minus his Crown of Thorns. A gawky adonis commissaire gropes in a box of assorted crucifixions, retrieves the missing crown and clamps it firmly upon the holy brow. In a trice the statue has been paid for, wrapped neatly in a copy

of the *Figaro*, and popped into a black quilted handbag. Flattery, fibs and insults pepper the air — each auctioneer has his own tactic for maintaining the pace of the bidding, which sometimes approaches the dizzy rate of 100 lots per hour.

"Mais ce n'est pas possible!" exclaims one woman, thwarted in her attempt to secure a silver and coral rosary. "Tout est possible ici, Madame!" comes the gleeful reply.

Bidding furiously for Bibles and incense-burners, a peripatetic black-gowned cleric loses his nerve, and the lot, with comic regularity. His prayers are answered, however, when a well-wisher presents him with a solid silver chalice worth 10,000 francs, which he carries off proudly, to adorn his parish church in the 5th arrondissement.

As the mallet strikes the oak for the last time, and the auctioneer wipes his weary brow, carpets, cut-glassware and curtains are loaded into Drouot's vast cellars, where objects can be left for up to 30 years before being reclaimed.

Over in the Beaujolais the commissaires are knocking back a well-earned glass of wine and flicking through the catalogue — announcing tomorrow's auction — the contents of an 18th-century castle near Angoulême. "It's not a bad little château," says one, pouring himself another glass of Médoc from the bottle on the counter. Unable to resist the pun, he holds his glass up to the light, and adds with a grin: "But nothing beats a good Château Balfour at the end of the day!"

ARTS SOUFFLES

On the ball again

THE migration of jugglers and tumblers is about to begin. Easter marks the point at which hundreds of jugglers and tumblers begin their journey to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, to perform in festivals throughout the Spring and Summer. They come principally from Scandinavia and the Netherlands, but also from Italy, Spain, France and Eastern Europe. A few years ago their numbers so overwhelmed the city of Salzburg, that they had to be moved on by police because they were blocking the pavements. Now, by law they must possess a "juggler's pass" if they want to perform in public areas. The highpoints of the season will be the "4th International Jugglers' and Tumblers' Festival" in Pforzheim in Germany on June 27th, and the Festival of Jugglers and pavement artists in Fildkirch in Austria on August 7th.

High scores

THE original manuscripts of Ravel's "Bolero" and Mendelssohn's "Parade" were amongst a number by famous French composers sold on Wednesday (8th April) at Drouot's in Paris. The "Bolero", dug up after a long absence in California, was bought for FF1,880,000 (£180,000) by the French Ministry of Culture, and it is hoped it will soon be on public view at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. They were part of the collection of Lucien Carban, the patron of a number of important composers in the 1920s and 1930s, and Ravel's editor and friend. In June will follow an

equally star-studded sale of 125 hand-written letters by Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Liszt, Janáček and Stravinsky.

Time for a word

THE 8th "Festival of Verbs" started yesterday at Le Mée-sur-Seine in France. "Verbs" are told "bang, ring and echo, the rhythms of the planet", and during the week-long festival not only verbs, but adverbs, adjectives, nouns, pronouns, suffixes indeed all units of sentence-structure will be explored. Seminars on creative writing will be given by a number of famous playwrights, novelists, poets and song-writers. Linguists will discuss the thorny question of the difference between French spoken in France and that spoken in Belgium, and subversive cartoonists and illustrators will demonstrate how pictures could dispense with the need for words together.

Art on the air

A NEW pan-European TV station called "Arte", devoted exclusively to culture is to be launched at the end of May. From its headquarters in Strasbourg, the new channel will operate throughout France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, and intends to expand in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Spain and Italy over the next couple of years. The programmes will be multilingual and will cover sociological, political and scientific issues in addition to literary, theatrical, musical or artistic subjects. There will be a strong emphasis on regional events and absolutely no advertising.

Flanders flourishes

THE TIMES's April Fool's joke about the division of the French and Flemish areas of Belgium.

evidently struck upon a deep-seated insecurity felt by some Belgians. Introducing the admirable music Festival of Flanders that starts at Kortrijk on Wednesday (15th April), its organiser Jan Briers asked in dismay: "Is Brussels capital of Europe or not?" Certainly the Festival will bone up Belgium's cultural identity. It lays great emphasis on local talent: Bruges will host a number of baroque concerts to illustrate its influence in the field of ancient music; carillon concerts in Mechelen will remind people of the origin of this unusual instrument, and Kortrijk — a longstanding centre for choral music — will perform a selection of splendid oratorios — an exceptional piece will be Honegger's "Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher" to be performed on the 30th of this month. The Kirov Ballet, the Royal Philharmonic, The Philadelphia, Vienna Philharmonic and London Symphony Orchestras are just some of the big names taking part.

Lance-a-lot

BEARING thirteen-foot-long iron lances, astride their chargers, the inhabitants of Champagne in the western Loire will perform the strange and ancient "Festival of Lances" on Palm Sunday (12th April). Every year since medieval times a troupe of "chevaliers" have escorted "Judas" and an effigy of Christ on the cross to the local cemetery. Judas, dressed in scarlet robe, is made to pray to the figure of Christ and clamber over the cemetery walls as penance. He receives three coins, as a grim reminder of his three denials. This unusual rendition of Biblical events ends with the lancers trying to break their lances on a post.

CATHERINE MILNER



At Easter Europe's jugglers begin their migration

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

AMSTERDAM

SAMUEL BECKETT FESTIVAL: A programme of dance inspired by the work of Beckett and performed by the Netherlands Dance Theatre. The triple bill features a new ballet by Jim Kylian, *Het Muziektheater*, 3 April; Tel. (31 20) 5265545 April 17-19.

BONN

GESPENSTERSONATE: A new production of the chamber opera by Reimann, conducted by Peter Döse and Thaddeus Dorn, directed by Paul Stern. Oper Bonn, Moltkestr Platz 1, Tel. (49 228) 728350 April 11, 13, 14, 20.

CANNES

45TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: The annual two-week event showcasing new films from countries worldwide begins on May 7. Cannes Tourist Services (Accès de France), B.P. 262 — 06401 Cannes Tel. (33) 93991977.

Cologne

HENRY MOORE: MUNTER UND KINDE: A selection of working models, drawings, graphics and sculptures by the British sculptor, Käthe Kollwitz Museum, Neumarkt 18-24, Tel. (49 221) 2272303/2399. Until May 7.

FLORENCE

MAGGIO MUSICALE: The festival boasts 47 musical events this year, including world premieres of Telemus, a music-drama based on Pasolini's film of the same name, and Kent Nagano's new ballet, *Madame Bovary*. Riccardo Muti and Verdi and Mozart operas conducted by Zubin Mehta.

VENICE

LEONARDO AND VENICE: This two-part exhibition on da Vinci is built around 16 important drawings from the Galleries dell'Accademia collection, bequeathed to it by the connoisseur Giuseppe Bossi in 1822. The first part, 20 April, looks into Europe with other da Vincis and their collections on related themes, while the second takes a scholarly look at the *effect de Vinci* and his followers had on Venetian art. Palazzo Grassi, Grand Canal, Tel. (39 41) 5231680. Until July 5.

VIENNA

THE CHEMIST ORCHARD: Dietrich Fliegner's production of the Chekhov play, *The Cherry Orchard*, starring Peter Stein, Wolfgang Wagner and Rosel Zech. Theater in der Josefstadt, Theaterstrasse 28. Tel. (43 1) 4025127. April 11, 12.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

SATURDAY APRIL 11: News 7.09; News about Britain 7.15; The World Today 7.30; Mandarin 8.00; Newsround 8.20; People and Politics 9.05; Words of Faith 9.18; A Jolly Good Show 10.00; News 10.30; World Business Report 10.30; Personal View 10.45; Sports Roundup 11.00; News Summary 11.01; Jazz 11.15; Travel 11.25; Weather 11.30; News 12.30; Mandarin 12.35; Newsround 12.45; News 1.00; News about Britain 1.15; Multirax 3.15; Sports Roundup 3.20; Newsround 3.45; Sports 4.00; News 4.00; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.14; Travel News 5.15; BBC English 5.20; News in German 4.40; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.45; Weather 5.50; News 5.55; Words of Faith 5.55; Weekend 5.55; News 6.00; News 6.25; Words of Faith 6.30; Mandarin 6.30; Sports Roundup 6.30; Weather 6.45; News 6.55; News 6.55; Words of Faith 6.55; Weekend 6.55; News 7.00; News 7.00; News about Britain 7.15; The World Today 7.30; Mandarin 8.00; Newsround 8.20; People and Politics 9.05; Words of Faith 9.18; A Jolly Good Show 10.00; News 10.30; The Ken Bruen Show 2.00; News Summary 2.00; Play for the Week 2.00; News 2.15; Travel and Weather 2.20; News 2.25; Words of Faith 2.30; Weather 2.40; News 2.45; Sports Roundup 2.45; 4.30am World Business Review 4.40; Travel and Weather News 4.45; News and Press Review in German 5.00; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.14; Travel News 5.15; BBC English 5.20; News in German 4.40; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.45; Weather 5.50; News 5.55; Words of Faith 5.55; Weekend 5.55; News 6.00; News 6.25; Words of Faith 6.30; Mandarin 6.30; Sports Roundup 6.30; Weather 6.45; News 6.55; News 6.55; Words of Faith 6.55; Weekend 6.55; News 7.00; News 7.00; News about Britain 7.15; The World Today 7.30; Mandarin 8.00; Newsround 8.20; People and Politics 9.05; Words of Faith 9.18; A Jolly Good Show 10.00; News 10.30; The Ken Bruen Show 2.00; News Summary 2.00; Play for the Week 2.00; News 2.15; Travel and Weather 2.20; News 2.25; Words of Faith 2.30; Weather 2.40; News 2.45; Sports Roundup 2.45; 4.30am World Business Review 4.40; Travel and Weather News 4.45; News and Press Review in German 5.00; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.14; Travel News 5.15; BBC English 5.20; News in German 4.40; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.45; Weather 5.50; News 5.55; Words of Faith 5.55; Weekend 5.55; News 6.00; News 6.25; Words of Faith 6.30; Mandarin 6.30; Sports Roundup 6.30; Weather 6.45; News 6.55; News 6.55; Words of Faith 6.55; Weekend 6.55; News 7.00; News 7.00; News about Britain 7.15; The World Today 7.30; Mandarin 8.00; Newsround 8.20; People and Politics 9.05; Words of Faith 9.18; A Jolly Good Show 10.00; News 10.30; The Ken Bruen Show 2.00; News Summary 2.00; Play for the Week 2.00; News 2.15; Travel and Weather 2.20; News 2.25; Words of Faith 2.30; Weather 2.40; News 2.45; Sports Roundup 2.45; 4.30am World Business Review 4.40; Travel and Weather News 4.45; News and Press Review in German 5.00; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.14; Travel News 5.15; BBC English 5.20; News in German 4.40; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.45; Weather 5.50; News 5.55; Words of Faith 5.55; Weekend 5.55; News 6.00; News 6.25; Words of Faith 6.30; Mandarin 6.30; Sports Roundup 6.30; Weather 6.45; News 6.55; News 6.55; Words of Faith 6.55; Weekend 6.55; News 7.00; News 7.00; News about Britain 7.15; The World Today 7.30; Mandarin 8.00; Newsround 8.20; People and Politics 9.05; Words of Faith 9.18; A Jolly Good Show 10.00; News 10.30; The Ken Bruen Show 2.00; News Summary 2.00; Play for the Week 2.00; News 2.15; Travel and Weather 2.20; News 2.25; Words of Faith 2.30; Weather 2.40; News 2.45; Sports Roundup 2.45; 4.30am World Business Review 4.40; Travel and Weather News 4.45; News and Press Review in German 5.00; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.14; Travel News 5.15; BBC English 5.20; News in German 4.40; German Features 5.00; World and British News 5.45; Weather 5.50; News 5.55; Words of Faith 5.55; Weekend 5.55; News 6.00; News 6.25; Words of Faith 6.30; Mandarin 6.30; Sports Roundup 6.30; Weather 6.45; News 6.55; News 6.55; Words of Faith 6.55; Weekend 6.55; News 7.00; News 7.00; News about Britain 7.15; The World Today 7.30; Mandarin 8.0

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46 WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Roll up, roll up for an offshore tax-saving deal

BY RUPERT BRUCE

OVER the last few weeks increasing sums of money have trickled into Britain's offshore tax havens as the tax conscious have reacted fearfully to the threat of high Labour tax rates.

Most of the money is flowing into "roll-up" money funds or offshore bank accounts. Both are legitimate vehicles for minimising a high earner's tax bill, but are also open to abuse from those who do not disclose their income and capital gains.

William Ramsay, marketing director of Rothschild Asset Management, whose Guernsey-based \$1.1 billion "roll-up" fund, the Old Court International Reserves, is the biggest of its kind, reports increasing sums flowing in from UK investors. But, he added, that the Rothschild fund is marketed throughout the world and "in the context of the whole, the increase is not that big".

For all but the very wealthy who can afford the best tax advice, money funds and offshore bank accounts are the only widely available and legitimate offshore tax-planning devices. When used within the law they simply give investors some control over when their tax is paid.

In the case of "roll-up" funds, income is reinvested

and does not become liable for income tax until the fund is sold. By that time the investor might have retired and be in a lower tax bracket or even have emigrated.

Most "roll-up" funds have a large number of investment options. The Fidelity accumulating fund has 15 currency sub-funds, ranging from the sterling fund, which has a yield of 9.5 per cent after charges to the euro fund with a yield of 9.3 per cent. Other managers offer bond funds, managed currency funds and equity funds.

Often paired with the "roll-up" funds are the much less popular "distributor" funds. They are identical except that they regularly pay income. They are attractive for either the person who has no tax liability and wants income gross of tax, such as a housewife, or a wealthy investor in the top tax bracket who wants to defer his income tax until the end of the tax year. They can also establish a useful loss to set against capital gains.

Offshore bank accounts have a similar appeal for those who want to defer tax until the end of the year as they pay income gross, unlike UK accounts which pay net.

One of the Leeds Overseas' most popular accounts pays interest on March 31, just

before the end of the tax year. The rates paid by the Leeds to UK residents on its most popular three-month notice account range between 8.45 per cent and 10.55 per cent.

For those living and working abroad who are not liable to UK tax, offshore investments have wider uses. David Brewer, partner and head of financial services at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte in Jersey, said: "What the offshore centre sells them is stability. They want sterling because they are one day going to come back and the UK is their home. Often these are people working in Africa, the Middle East, or the Far East. They are nervous about investing in banks of their location and they trust the British offshore locations."

But investing in the offshore centres around Britain has its hazards. Bank accounts are not protected by the UK's Deposit Protection Scheme. And getting a probate, that is proving a will, for inheritance tax purposes can prove expensive.

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investors to declare any tax and they may pay penalties if they do not do so.

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Insurer to cease underwriting Neighbourhood Watch cover

By SARA MCCONNELL

AN insurance company which underwrites household and contents insurance specially for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is to pull out of the UK market. Switzerland Insurance, which will stop providing cover from the end of June, has, like other insurance companies, suffered increased losses because of theft claims.

It says its decision to withdraw was not as a result of unacceptable losses on contents insurance.

Malcolm Porter, general manager, said that the company was being reorganised and would no longer be underwriting insurance sold by provincial brokers.

"Over the last couple of years we have lost money, but not as much as the others. It is true that there has been an increase in crime, so the account hasn't been as profitable as it might have been. Inflation has also put up the cost of claims — and in a recession people look to their insurance."

The decision comes as two of the largest household insurers, Sun Alliance and Norwich Union, announced huge losses on household contents

insurance, mainly because of theft.

The cost to Norwich Union of domestic property theft more than doubled to £33 million, while Sun Alliance said that household theft claims were up 32 per cent.

At the same time, some insurers and experts are questioning the effectiveness of belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, when many are underfunded and lack commitment from local people.

Strover, the broker that administers the Switzerland Family Guard policy underwritten by Switzerland Insurance, said it was talking to three other insurers in an attempt to find a replacement.

Paul Strover, the chairman, said the main problem had been that Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators were not prepared to recommend the policy to their members. "They did not seem to understand that a sponsor will not continue unless it gets something in return," said Mr Strover.

Policyholders have to be members of Neighbourhood Watch to qualify for the scheme. He stressed that there should be no problem

replacing Switzerland, and no reason why the new underwriter should not keep the premium differential.

Members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes are commonly believed by insurers to be among the safest risks for contents insurance, on the grounds that they are likely to be more security conscious if they have made the effort to join a scheme. Switzerland's Mr Porter said that Strover's cover was aimed at the type of person who cared

trolling the standards of vigilance of different schemes — and some are more effective than others.

The number of schemes is growing and there are now around 100,000 covering about 5 million households, according to Home Office figures.

Doohai Husain, senior consultant at Crime Concern, who has researched the effectiveness of schemes, said: "The general feeling is that most schemes are not making

'Over the last couple of years we have lost money, but not as much as the others'

enough about his or her property to belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The company's claims experience showed that Neighbourhood Watch was effective at reducing the crime rate in some areas, he said.

Most insurers try to encourage policyholders to become members by offering discounts on premiums, normally of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. However, there is no central body con-

cerned with the scheme.

"Initially, police forces were into a numbers game and no consideration was given to how the schemes could be managed, and there was no support or training for co-ordinators. But schemes do have a deterrent effect if there are signs and stickers in windows. They shouldn't be written off."

Insurers have to rely for the

a significant impact at local level. Neighbourhood Watch is one of several performance indicators.

"Initially, police forces were into a numbers game and no consideration was given to how the schemes could be managed, and there was no support or training for co-ordinators. But schemes do have a deterrent effect if there are signs and stickers in windows. They shouldn't be written off."

Insurers have to rely for the

most part on information given to them on proposal forms. Mr Strover said: "We can't go and inspect each house. We have to rely on information coming through on proposal forms."

However, John Brownhill, of Brownhill, Morris and West, a broker in Beckenham, Kent, said that Neighbourhood Watches had to be active to be effective.

The broker runs a scheme designed exclusively for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, underwritten by General Accident. Mr Brownhill said: "We go to each house and do a security survey, the same as a crime prevention officer would."

Neighbourhood Watch membership was one element in making homes more secure, said Mr Brownhill.

General Accident is planning to underwrite a further eight similar schemes around the country after the initial success in London.

General Accident said that the schemes "are not just an endorsement of Neighbourhood Watch. They are ensuring that precautions are adequate by risk surveys." GA does not offer discounts to members of Neighbourhood Watch except through



schemes with brokers, preferring to offer no-claims bonuses of up to 25 per cent.

"We haven't had sufficient proof that Neighbourhood Watch works universally. If we are looking at a broad geographical spread, we feel it is better to reward policyholders who do not claim."

Other insurers concede that the standard of schemes

may be variable, but continue to have enough faith in their effectiveness to offer discounts. Sun Alliance offers a 10 per cent protected homes discount to those who have a burglar alarm, are a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme, or who stay in all or most of the day.

Steve Taylor, Sun Alliance's superintendent, house-

hold, said: "We like to encourage policyholders to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We see it as one of many measures which help people become more security conscious. A lot of people haven't realised that nipping down to the shops and leaving the door unlocked means an opportunist thief can break in."



A shock awaits those who need more money to face-lift their property

New SIB rules may cut return on high income unit trusts

By HAZEL SPINK

YIELDS on some high-income unit trusts seem likely to fall because of new Securities and Investments Board rules on how fund management groups deduct management expenses.

The rules forbid companies to deduct the costs of running a fund from its capital growth. Instead, these costs must be deducted from income the fund receives, which means lower yields for investors. The rules were published at the end of last year and reflect a statement of recommended practice drawn up by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation.

They are aimed at enabling investors to see more clearly what charges are being deducted and at drawing comparisons between different companies' fees. In the past, companies have deducted charges in various ways.

Fund managers are already finding it difficult to maintain yields because recession is forcing many companies in which they have invested to cut dividends.

Elderly investors, who rely

heavily on savings to supplement income, are likely to be hit hardest by the new rules. Exeter Fund Managers is one of the companies which has been affected. The company plans to cut the gross yield on its High Income Unit Trust (ExHIT) by 1.75 per cent from July 1.

In a letter to unitholders, Ian Henderson, the chairman, said: "We are aware that many unitholders chose ExHIT primarily for the high

Elderly investors, who often rely heavily on savings, are likely to be hit hardest by the new rules

income it provides and that these holders will not welcome the change", but attempts to obtain a dispensation from SIB have failed. He added: "We very much regret the need to make this alteration to the operation of the trust."

Traditionally, Exeter has levied all expenses against its fund's capital account in order to maximise income to unitholders. The group has

investigating the background to the case to establish whether and to whom it should make representations. "We are currently exploring how many of our members may be affected by these new rules. If there is a vast body, we will make representations in very strong terms," he said.

"At this stage, I can see nothing to suggest that either the SORP or the SIB regulations in themselves prohibit certain expenses being set

against capital," said Mr Beales. Recent developments were particularly worrying because many investors in high-income funds were interested primarily in income and were often not concerned about capital growth, he said. If the new rules did ban expenses being deducted from capital, this clearly undermined the original objective of the investor, he added.

He said that providing the method of deducting expenses was clearly disclosed, there was no reason why companies should not be allowed to continue to deduct them from capital.

Independent financial adviser, Michael Rose, proprietor of Michael Rose & Associates, said: "Exeter's fund is a specialist fund, which is particularly suitable for the elderly who are not too worried about capital growth but are looking for the prospect of growing income."

He added: "I now have to tell my clients, who come into the fund with a view to getting high income, that there is going to be a drop in that income."

SIB said the new rules were based on existing trust law.

YORKSHIRE Building Society is offering new borrowers discounts of 0.5 per cent, guaranteed until November 1. First-time buyers will get additional 2.5 per cent discounts for the first six months of their loans, bringing their rate down to 7.99 per cent. Alternatively, they can opt for discounts of 1.25 per cent for 12 months.

Those with loans of more than £50,000 can get a 1 per cent discount for 12 months, bringing their rate down to 9.49 per cent. The society's Equity Plus scheme, which offers loans of up to 55 per cent of purchase price, will cost 8.49 per cent for the first six months as there is a 2 per cent discount.

Up to £10,000 can now be invested in Friends Provident's Stewardship personal equity plan, which is linked to

BRIEFING

the company's Stewardship income trust. This follows the Budget announcement that the full £6,000 Pep allowance can be invested in unit or investment trusts. The Stewardship trust is an ethical fund investing in companies with products judged to be of long-term benefit to the community.

Investors who put £3,000 or more into Save & Prosper's managed portfolio Pep or dealing plan before May 29 will have their initial charges halved to 0.75 per cent. Those investors taking out a unit trust Pep for sum of £3,000 or more will receive a discount of 1 per cent on the unit offer price, a saving of up to £60 on a subscription of £6,000.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society has launched a fixed-rate investment bond that pays 11.3 per cent gross (8.475 per cent net) for one

year on balances of £10,000 or more. A lower rate of 11 per cent gross, 8.25 per cent net, applies to investments of £5,000 to £9,999. The bond will be a limited issue and is available only by post. There is a maximum investment of £25,000.

Holidaymakers whose destinations turn into war zones will still be covered by TSB's travel insurance.

The bank has removed the war risk exclusion from its travel and holiday insurance policy. Cover for medical and other expenses has been increased from £1 million to £5 million, and baggage cover from £1,000 to £1,500. Delayed baggage cover goes up to £100. Loss of passport cover is now £250 instead of £100 and personal liability cover goes up from £1 million to £2 million.

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*SOURCE: The WM Company

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Check agency files if applying for credit

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

ANYONE who plans to apply for credit should check what information is on credit reference files, Eric Howe, the data protection registrar, advised this week. He was responding to his defeat in actions brought by him against the four main credit reference agencies. He wanted to stop them supplying information to lenders about people, other than applicants.

This third-party information can lead to creditworthy people being turned down for loans. Mr Howe estimates that it could affect 100,000 applicants a year.

One woman complained to the registrar that she had been turned down for a loan because of the bad debts of a son who had left home seven years previously. The woman had properly repaid credit on several occasions herself.

At present, credit reference agencies supply information from their files on

the basis of addresses at which the applicant has lived. Information recorded on other persons, who have not lived there at the same time as the applicant, is also passed on to lenders trying to assess an applicant for a loan.

From July 31 next year agencies will not be allowed to supply information on any person who has not lived at an address at the same time as the credit applicant.

But they will be able to supply information on people who have lived at the same address as the credit applicant as a member of the same family in a single household.

Mr Howe said: "I am pleased that the tribunal has supported me to get rid of a totally unfair and unacceptable credit industry practice." He had wanted a total ban on third party information.

Elizabeth Stanton, director of the Retail Credit Group, said: "When the system changes, information on the same family at the same address will be passed

on. If a son or daughter runs up a bill, parents may decide to pay off the debt and then get the money back. There is a mutual responsibility within the family."

There could still be problems after next July for people whose relatives have a county court judgment against them.

"I would therefore advise people to write to the agencies and ask for a copy of their file which they are entitled to do under the Consumer Credit Act," Mr Howe said.

The agencies against which the registrar took action are CCN Systems Ltd, Consumer Affairs Dept, PO Box 40, Nottingham NG7 2SS; Credit and Data Marketing Services, CCA Dept, Dove Mill, Dean Church Lane, Bolton, Lancashire, BL3 4ET; Equifax Europe Ltd, Consumer Affairs Dept, Spectrum House, 1a North Avenue, Clydebank, Glasgow G8 2DR and Infolink Ltd, CCA Department, 38 Whitworth Street, Manchester M60 1QH.



Counting the cost: Eric Howe wanted total ban

Credit horror

From P. J. Chuck

Sir, Having complained to Giro about the amount of interest credited to my deposit account, I was absolutely appalled to be informed, in writing, that even when there was over £1,000 credit, their current rate is 0.98 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. CHUCK,
3 Broadhurst Close,
Richmond, Surrey.



Closing the account with a sherry

From Mr A. J. Alexander

Sir, Last autumn I opened a current account with my local branch of the National Westminster Bank and, as I was a student, the bank credited this account with £30.

On Christmas Eve I closed the account, withdrew the

£30 and later bought myself a jumper. As it was Christmas Eve the bank offered me a glass of sherry with the compliments of the season. Who says the bank always wins!

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ALEXANDER,
North Harrow, Middlesex.

Underestimating the ravages of inflation on our savings

From Dr R. E. Timms

Sir, I am writing to ask that you feature an item on the correct calculation of "real" interest rates, that is, after allowing for inflation, since the public appears to be continually misled. I enclose a letter recently received by my wife from Scottish Widows.

You will see that the following information is given:

Annual	RPI	Real rate of return
14.7%	8.4%	6.3%
13.5%	5.8%	7.8%

These figures, obtained by simply subtracting the retail price index from the annual return, are quite wrong and significantly underestimate the ravages of inflation on savings. The correct figures are obtained, of course, by division, and I am sure you could explain this clearly to readers of *The Times*.

Thus, in the above examples the correct rates of return are 5.8 per cent and 7.2 per cent instead of 6.3 per cent and 7.6 per cent. This loss of about 0.5 per cent may not

seem so much, but over the lifetime of an endowment policy of 25 years the difference between a rate of, say, 6 per cent and 6.5 per cent is 12 per cent, which is several thousands of pounds on most policies. The higher the rate of inflation, the bigger the difference between the correct and incorrect methods of calculating.

To me, the really disturbing aspect of this is that the very people who can make this mistake have also been entrusted with our savings on the basis of their claims of financial expertise!

Yours faithfully,
R. E. TIMMS,
The Cottages,
Halfway Lane,
Swindeley,
Lincolnshire.

1.25% for savings below £500, first £50 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £1000 or less. Additional savings up to £10,000 for savers re-investing proceeds of existing £5000 or less. *Interest payable gross. Higher rates for larger sums. **No longer in use.

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Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these to your running total for the week and check this against the week's total on the page. If it matches this figure, you have won a free share or a share of the top weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must keep your card valid until the day of claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Bridgewater Bldg.	Bldg./Rds	
2	Boat House	Hotels/Cat	
3	Brent Chem.	Chem./Plastics	
4	Caledonian	Press/Print	
5	Deutsche (UA)	Bankers	
6	Ashley Group	Fds	
7	Currys	Electr./Distr.	
8	Channel	Telecs	
9	GWR Crp	Leisure	
10	Roski	Bldg./Rds	
11	Hawthornes Fds	Fds	
12	Angland	Electr.	
13	Blaize May	Motors/Air	
14	Waddingtons (U)	Press/Print	
15	Tudor	Bldg./Rds	
16	Holmes	Electr.	
17	Soundmarks	Electr.	
18	Alfred Irish	Press/Print	
19	Tenn	Fds	
20	Phoenix Timber	Bldg./Rds	
21	Home County	Newspaper/Pub	
22	Bellahouston	Industrial	
23	Holts	Drugs/Spec.	
24	Scapa	Industrial	
25	MemberSw	Electr.	
26	Alb Leds	Leisure	
27	Midland	Bank/Div.	
28	Corp Services	Industrial	
29	Haynes Gp	Electr.	
30	Five Oaks	Propri	
31	Cars Milling	Fds	
32	St Of Ireland	Bank/Div.	
33	Printex	Industrial	
34	Christies	Propri	
35	Hampdens Hm	Drugs/Spec.	
36	BOC	Industrial	
37	Ulster TV	Leisure	
38	Persson Zoch	Chem/Plas.	
39	Regaline	Propri	
40	Kokos	Industrial	
41	Marshalls	Bldg./Rds	
42	Yorkdale	Textiles	
43	Akland W	Industrial	
44	Fouriers Newseng	Business	

© Times Newspapers Ltd Total

Please take into account all minus signs

Weekly Dividends

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

100 100 100 100 100 100 500

Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Betty M Stevens of Epsom, Surrey, and Mr Robin Stanley, of Hindhead, Surrey, each received £1,000.

1001/92

High Low Company

Price

No Yld

Net Yld % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

100 211

Abbey Nat

100 211

Barclays

100 211

BSB

100 211

Chase Nat

100 211

HSBC

100 211

Leeds Nat

100 211

Midland

100 211

Nat West

100 211

NatWest

100 211

Northumbrian

100 211

Prudential

100 211

RAIL

100 211

Scot Nat

100 211

Standard Char

100 211

Swindon Nat

100 211

Tower Ham

100 211

West Nat

100 211

Wessex Nat

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Winton Nat

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Woolwich Nat

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York Nat

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Yorkshire Nat

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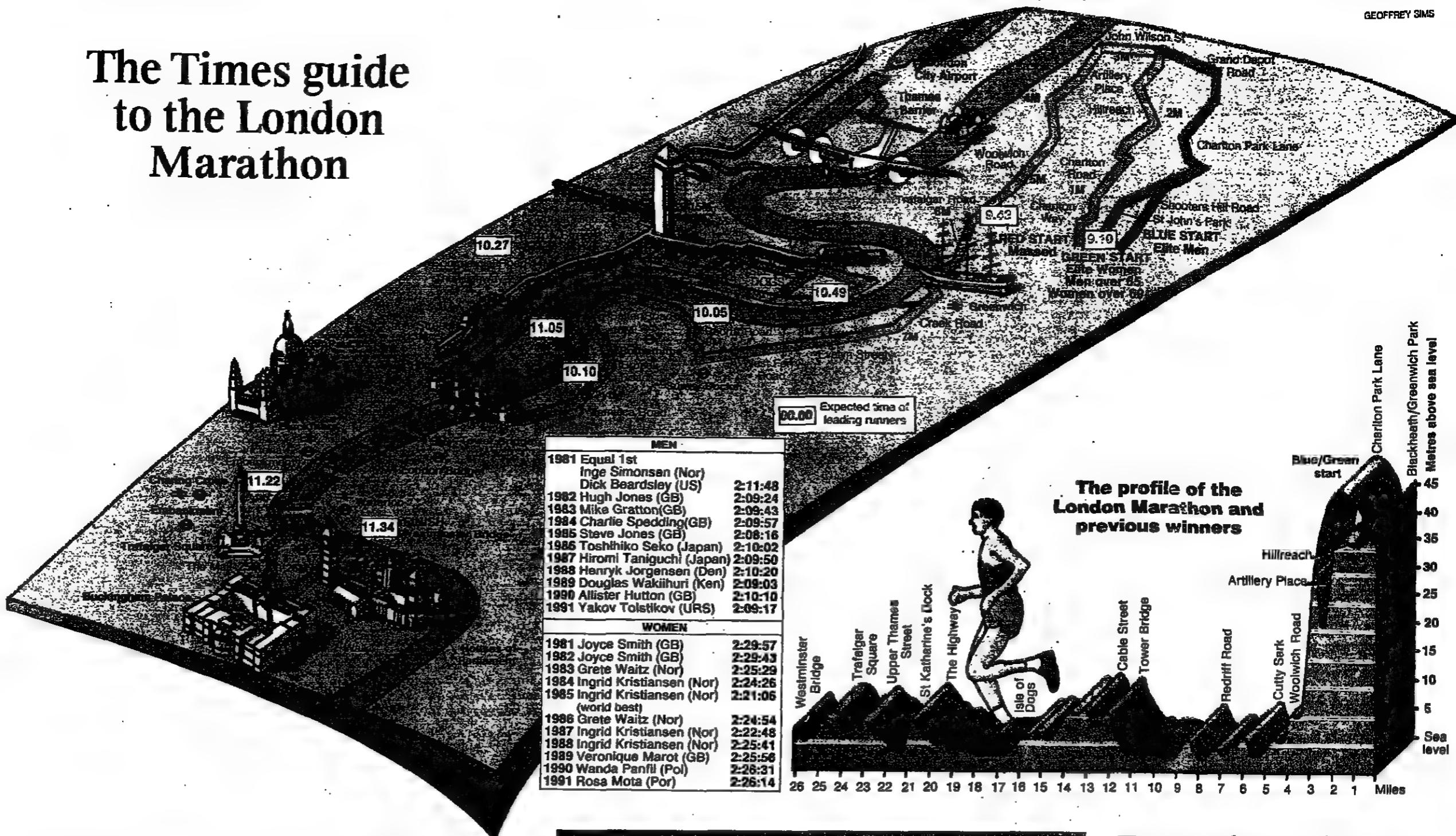
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES									
	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Variation			
FT-SE 100	Jan 92	2700.0	2680.0	2650.0	2620.0	-220.0	2200	2200	2200
Previous open: 3013.3	Sept 29								
Three Month Sterling	Jan 92	90.01	90.11	89.78	89.90	+0.89	85059	85059	85059
Previous open: 89.85	Sept 29								
Three Mth Euro	Jan 92	95.93	95.95	95.94	95.95	+0.02	11760	11760	11760
Three Mth Euro DM	Jan 92	90.43	90.65	90.51	90.37	-1.07	11697	11697	11697
US Treasury Bond	Jan 92	100.01	100.11	99.99	99.96	-0.05	102	102	102
Long Gil	Jan 92	97.82	97.80	97.73	97.70	-0.12	10120	10120	10120
Previous open: 95.88	Sept 29								
Japanese Govt Bond	Jan 92	105.60	105.60	105.55	105.50	-0.10	10555	10555	10555
German Govt Bond	Jan 92	91.00	91.00	90.95	90.95	-0.05	10555	10555	10555
Italian Govt Bond	Jan 92	90.22	90.22	90.15	90.15	-0.07	10555	10555	10555
UK Govt Bond	Jan 92	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.50	-0.10	10555	10555	10555
US Gil	Jan 92	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.50	-0.10	10555	10555	10555
UK Gil	Jan 92	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.50	-0.10	10555	10555	10555
High Yr Gil	Jan 92	91.50	91.50	91.50	91.50	-0.10	10555	10555	10555
EUROPEAN UT MANAGEMENT LTD	Jan 92	117.73	117.73	117.73	117.73	-0.00	11760	11760	11760
FT-SE 100 Volumes	Jan 92	2700.0	2680.0	2650.0	2620.0	-220.0	2200	2200	2200
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GEOFFREY SIMS

The Times guide to the London Marathon



Wallace not one for the waiting game

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ANDREA Wallace has come a long way in a short time, a concept which will be uppermost in her mind tomorrow morning. The idea is to cover 26 miles, 385 yards in under two-and-a-half hours and be the first of 25,000 runners across Westminster Bridge in the world's biggest marathon. What began as a hobby less than three years ago could blossom into a £50,000 payday.

The ADT London Marathon will send its elite women on their journey from Blackheath at 9.10am, 20 minutes before the men. Unless their race is particularly slow and the men's especially fast it will be ladies first across the line. Wallace, contrary to most expert opinion, thinks it can be her. Your correspondent's view is that, with cautious application, she would be good for a place in 2hr 38min. Wallace, though, has the Liz McColgan feel for herself.

The Olympic and defending London champion, Rosa Mota, is most people's pick for victory but Wallace has other ideas. "I do not think Rosa will run 2hr 24min," she said. "I have got it in me to run around that time." Running round the house used to be Wallace's main exercise. "The daily routine was looking after the kids.

In only her second mara-

thon, Wallace might have been better choosing to consolidate her position in Britain. She is, after all, ranked only twelfth all-time. Would not leading the Brits, beating Veronique Marot, holder of the British best time, be a more sensible option than tackling Mota head on? "No way, I would get bored," Wallace said. "I can definitely say I will be with Rosa until 22 miles and then anything can happen."

In their three races so far, all of 10 kilometres or less, Wallace has beaten Mota each time. The results bear little relevance to 26 miles, except in one respect, according to Hambly. "Andrea would not worry about her ability to match Rosa in a finish." They should note, however, that Dionisio Castro, an accomplished track runner, was outgunned for fourth place in his marathon debut in Rotterdam last weekend.

Nothing, though, paid as well as tomorrow might: £31,000 to the winner (£17,000 for second and £12,000 for third). London has equal pay for equal work: record bonuses rising from £600 for men under 2:13.30 and women under 2:35.00 to £28,000 for a world best, and identical prize-money structure. Appearance fees on top. But Wallace must concentrate on splits, not cuts. Her percentage cut of the £216,000 prize-money will be determined by her careful attention to split times. If she is drawn into too fast a pace by the experienced Mota, the consequences could be catastrophic. But her 2:31.36 marathon debut in Carpia, Italy, augurs well. London is a faster course.

On only her second mara-



Straight from the horse's mouth: Wallace hopes her new foal will bring luck

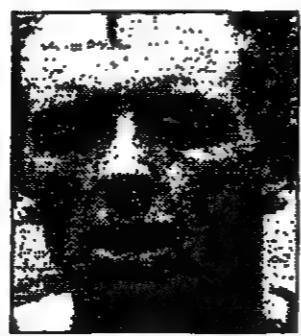
OTHER LEADING RUNNERS TO FOLLOW



MARK PLAATJES (stateless)
Age 30
Best time: 2:08.58
Former South African granted political asylum in the United States in 1988. Undergoing five-year wait for citizenship and ineligible for Olympics. "This will be my Olympic, I suppose," he says. Best time set in 1985 but confident of improving. Won Los Angeles (2:10.21) last year and was second to Steve Brace in Berlin. Spent £11,000 earnings from running on brother's cancer treatment. The favourite.



PAUL EVANS (Britain)
Age 31
Best time: 2:12.53
Most interesting British newcomer to London. Has shown abundant talent at various distances but took three years to get the marathon half-right. Failed to finish his first, blew up in his second but ran 2:12.53 in Carpia, Italy, in October. If he gets it completely right in fourth marathon could surprise favourites. "I want to run under 2:10," he says. Lisbon half-marathon time last month (61:34) suggests he can.



STEVE BRACE (Britain)
Age 30
Best time: 2:10.57
Britain's most successful marathon runner in 1991: seventh in London, helping Britain to win World Cup, 2nd in Berlin. Fun-runner turned hardened professional. Ran 3:24 in first marathon but now commands substantial appearance fees. Risked upsetting Olympic selectors by agreeing to run here because "London is a good payday", but has been chosen anyway. Fair chance of winning.



ROSA MOTA (Portugal)
Age 33
Best time: 2:23.29
Most successful marathon runner, man or woman, of last few years. Olympic, world, European titles; defending London champion. "Every marathon I run is improved," she says. Her 1991 world championship defeat was her first championship reverse since 1984. Operation to remove ovarian cyst last May left her short of fitness. Providing she does not suffer recurrence of stomach pains, should win.



KATRIN DORRE (Germany)
Age 30
Best time: 2:25.24
Bronze medals from 1988 Olympics and 1991 world championships. Won 12 of 19 marathons. Ran 2:27.34 for third in Osaka in January. In process of moving house from industrially polluted Leipzig to rural Odenwald. Gave up medical studies to concentrate on running and bringing up young daughter. No longer supported by East German state system but earns well from running. Second favourite.



JAN HURUK (Poland)
Age 32
Best time: 2:10.16; 3rd last year, 4th 1991 world championships.

MAURILIO CASTILLO (Mexico)
Age 29
Best time: 2:10.47; 7th 1991 world championships, 4th Tokyo Marathon in February.

ALLISTER HUTTON (GB)
Age 37
Best time: 2:09.17
London winner 1990; set his best time in London 1985. Has been running well this winter.

Collection of fund-runners all determined to collect

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE nine competitors in the Times/Unisys marathon fund-running team are approaching the London Marathon with a mixture of enthusiasm and trepidation: their responses to the challenge they have set themselves being as varied as the causes for which they are willing to risk their pride and their feet.

Leading the Times team home should be William Black and Nicholas Binns, who both aim to finish in 3hr 15min. Black is an experienced runner from South Africa but he almost failed to make the starting line-up. A query from the race director, Alan Storey, over his nationality, had him worried.

"Although I have run in South Africa, I told him I've

always held a British passport," he said. "I've got my number now so nothing is going to stop me."

He started with the aim to raise money to send his friend Trevor Andary home to the United States. Andary, a teacher, was injured in a biking accident last October, which left him in a wheelchair.

The appeal fund has already reached £1,500, more than the cost of an air ticket, and is still growing. Black, who beat three hours for one marathon in South Africa, wants to raise as much as possible to help with additional expenses.

The main cause for concern in the weather, with most of the runners worried that Sunday will be warm and sunny.

Ken McGuire, from Dev-

on, claims to be a winter runner. He has clocked up 3,200 miles in the last eight weeks and knows that for the first 20 miles he will be fighting fit. But after that, he will have his eyes peeled for a taxi.

"A week ago I was supremely confident but now I have seen the sunshine I am not so sure," he said.

He is running for the British Epilepsy Association, having been diagnosed as having epilepsy in his twenties. As a marathon novice he is not too concerned with beating the clock but he is worried the warm weather could add an hour to his target of 4hr 30min.

John Pennell has no worries about setting a fast time. "I'll be running with the old codgers at the back," he said. His cause is the Alzheimer's Disease Association and already he has £1,000 in the bank for the charity.

"I told everyone I want the donations doubled if they have to be made posthumously," he said, having set himself the modest target of five hours.

TIMES FUND-RUNNING TEAM

- 26304: John Nugent, Graham Nugent Paralympic Fund
- 13640: Justin Wier, Brinos
- 13640: Stephen Cottrell, Starlight Foundation
- 35088: John Pennell, Alzheimer's Disease Association
- 33888: Kenneth Maguire, British Epilepsy Association
- 08212: William Black, Radcliffe Hospital Trust
- 32688: Anthony Stevens, Daneford Trust
- 08438: Nicholas Binns, Quest Cancer Test

Kenbu is
too sharp
for Hatoof

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

RACING 53

Speedy Magic Ring to strengthen claim

Following the fillies' classic trial yesterday, the spotlight now focuses on some of the leading colts for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket when they contest the Singer & Friedlander Greenham Stakes over seven furlongs at Newbury today.

The principals in question are Rodrigo de Triano, Lion Cavern and Magic Ring.

In going for Magic Ring, I am banking on his ability to be as effective over seven furlongs as he was over five last season, since he has never been asked to race over further than the minimum trip.

His trainer, Paul Cole, who certainly got things right last year when he amassed more than £1 million in prize-money, and topped the table for the first time, is convinced that he will.

Furthermore, a study of Magic Ring's pedigree suggests he will also, because he is by Green Desert, who won the Free Handicap over this trip and he is out of a mare by Emper, who won a Derby.

Harness that inherent stamin to the speed that he showed last year when winning the Norfolk Stakes and the Cornwall Stakes at Ascot, either side of finishing third against older sprinters in the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp, and you have a pretty formidable competitor over today's trip.

He should prove too strong for even Rodrigo de Triano, who went through his two-year-old career unbeaten.

My reason for opposing Rodrigo de Triano is the belief that there would have been little between him and Lion Cavern in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket last autumn if the latter had

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

enjoyed a better run.

Subsequently, Lion Cavern went on to at least partially justify that opinion by winning the Harris Hill Stakes on today's track, albeit when starting at 9-4 on to beat weak opponents.

Stiffer opposition is certainly guaranteed today by the presence also in the field of the Gimcrack winner, River Falls, who was beaten three times by Rodrigo de Triano last year, his more-than-useful stable companion Swing Low and Alhijaz.

The latter will certainly relish today's soft conditions, judged on the way that he romped home twice in succession in Italy last autumn after finishing a creditable third to the talented Seattle Rhyme at Goodwood.

Today's nap, though is Saddlers' Hall to win the Lanes End John Porter EBF Stakes in the experienced hands of Pat Eddery.

A late maturing type, who finished second in last year's

St Leger at Doncaster where he was beaten one-and-a-half lengths by Toulon, Saddlers' Hall has always impressed me as the type to have more scope for improvement than corrupt, even though he was beaten by that horse in the Great Voltigeur Stakes at Newbury today.

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NEWBURY: 4.00 One Best.

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THUNDERER
2.15 Sober Lad. 2.45 Duplicity. 3.15 My Memoirs. 3.45 Vasilev. 4.15 Nimble Deer. 4.45 Best Effort. Richard Evans. 3.15 Jeune.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 Zaah.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 CLIFTON STAKES

(2-Y-O; £2,584; 5) (6 runners)

1 SOBER LAD 25 (D) J Berry 94. 2 G Hinde 2. 3 NORTON CHALLENGER 114 (CD, G, S) M Eddery 9-10. 4 ARKENDALE DIAMOND 15 (D, F, G, S) M Eddery 9-10. 5 GONE FOR A SONG 20 (M) W Eddery 9-11. 6 H Darby 9-12. 7 GAYNOR GOODMAN 6 & Moore 9-4. 8 H Darby 9-11. 9 FAIRFIELD 17 (D) H Darby 9-12. 10 FAIRFIELD 20 (D, F, G) J Berry 9-11. 11 NORTON CHALLENGER 20 (M) H Darby 9-12. 12 FAIRFIELD 21 (D) H Darby 9-12. 13 FAIRFIELD 22 (D, F, G) J Berry 9-12. 14 FAIRFIELD 23 (D) H Darby 9-12. 15 FAIRFIELD 24 (D) H Darby 9-12. 16 FAIRFIELD 25 (D) H Darby 9-12. 17 FAIRFIELD 26 (D) H Darby 9-12. 18 FAIRFIELD 27 (D) H Darby 9-12. 19 FAIRFIELD 28 (D) H Darby 9-12. 20 FAIRFIELD 29 (D) H Darby 9-12. 21 FAIRFIELD 30 (D) H Darby 9-12. 22 FAIRFIELD 31 (D) H Darby 9-12. 23 FAIRFIELD 32 (D) H Darby 9-12. 24 FAIRFIELD 33 (D) H Darby 9-12. 25 FAIRFIELD 34 (D) H Darby 9-12. 26 FAIRFIELD 35 (D) H Darby 9-12. 27 FAIRFIELD 36 (D) H Darby 9-12. 28 FAIRFIELD 37 (D) H Darby 9-12. 29 FAIRFIELD 38 (D) H Darby 9-12. 30 FAIRFIELD 39 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England B team loses its experienced scrum half

Bates pulls out to leave selectors with tour vacancy

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE England B team to tour New Zealand in June that was decided last night will not include Steve Bates, the experienced Wasps scrum half, when it is announced on Monday. Bates, who plays today in the crucial Courage Clubs Championship match against Orrell, has withdrawn from contention because of his work commitments.

His decision will come as a severe blow to the tour management, who played him in three of the four B internationals this season and must have been looking at a potential senior half-back combination of Bates and Stuart Barnes, the Bath stand-off half certain to be named as tour captain.

Neither Dewi Morris, England's grand-slam scrum half, who was asked about his availability, nor Steve Douglas, the Newcastle Gosforth scrum half still recovering from injury, can tour. This leaves England looking at their development squad members, Dave Scully, of Wakefield, who played in the B international against Italy as a replacement, Aadel

Kardooni, the Leicester scrum half, who is recovering from damaged knee ligaments, and Steve Knight, Bath's reserve to Richard Hill. All three are talented players but lack representative experience. More and more the selectors will be re-thinking Rupert Moon's decision to opt for Wales and the load on Barnes's shoulders will be increased. Other members of this season's senior squad who are unavailable include Jason Leonard and Tim Rodber — both recovering from neck injuries — Nigel Heslop, David Pears and Chris Orsi.

As it happens, Bates and Morris will be on opposite sides today as Orrell seek to recoup the first division leadership: "Many clubs wind down their training at this time of year but we have decided to intensify the basics, particularly scrummaging," Samson Southern, the Orrell captain, said.

"Perhaps that is where we went wrong last year when, in April, we lost a cup semi-final and three league games by a single score. We have got to be single-minded in our approach and hope that playing with pace and passion can bring the points." The Lancashire club will not take lightly the club that arrived at Orrell in the league a year ago and won with a late try by Oti — who is on the wing again today.

Northampton, the new leaders after their victory at Leicester on Tuesday, go to Nottingham wary of a side in desperate need of victory to stay in the first division. Should Nottingham pull off a remarkable coup, they will cast a sideways glance to see whether Rugby have gone down to Harlequins, because the two Midland clubs are at the critical end of the table, just above hapless Rosslyn Park.

There is some trauma at Rugby, too, this week, after the resignation of Alan Foster, their coach. The strain of sustaining the club's astonishing rise in the last five years to first-division status may be starting to tell but Neil Mapleton, their playing administrator, and Andy Johnson, the chairman of selectors, will desperately hope that the results fall into place.

Courage Championship
First division
Gloucester v Bristol
Gloucester retain the same XV, which means that Sims is pitted at lock against Blackmore, of Bristol. However, Bristol will be without their captain and prop, Hickey, at prop, while Hull remains unavailable because of RAF commitments.

Nottingham v Northampton
Nottingham make only one enforced change: Everett is unavailable so Jackson prop, against Padmore to the centre, and move Ward to full back in the continued absence of Hunter.

Rosslyn Park v Bath
Rosslyn Park lose half their pack to injuries and Wyles, unavailable at centre, is replaced by Hunter. He plays his first league game. Milward moves to lock, Bath, without Guscoff and Clarke, play Lewis at centre and restore Ojomoh to the back row with Reid replacing Haag at lock.

Rugby v Harlequins
Rugby give Quantrell a league debut on the left wing and restore

Pot to stand-off, with Hambley moving to centre. Bathman is injured. Alderson is at hooker. Harlequins are without Moore and Skinner, both with groin injuries, so Killich hooks and Shesby joins the back row.

Saracens v London Irish
Lee Adamson returns to Saracens's second row in place of Domoni. The only Irish absentee is the unavailable Geoghegan, whose place on the wing goes to Hennessy.

Wasps v Orrill
Wasps field Clough and Loxzowski at centre (Hopley and Childs are both unavailable) but the pack is the best available, with Ryan at No. 8 and Emerus on the blind-side. Kimmings is back for Orrill.

Heineken League
First division
Llanelli v Cardiff
Llanelli give Ian Jones a place on the wing and bring back prop and Julian Williams into the back row. Cardiff play Moore at scrum half, Griffiths at prop and Hembrow at lock.

Maesteg v Swans
Maesteg will make the leaders work for victory but Swans have Gibbs, Tilley and Simon Davies back from Hong Kong and bring back Kilkenny and Davies (Farker) into the pack.

Neath v Bridgend
Neath shuffle their back division, bringing Barclay and Llewellyn to wings and Llewellyn to centre. Bridgend prefer Bradshaw at full back and Graham Davies (wing). Dick Thomas moves to stand-off and Lloyd comes into the back row.

Newport v Pontypool
Newport, cup semi-finalists, bring Lewis in at wing and move Waters to No. 8, making room for Ali for Allen. Pontypool give Carr a league debut at full back and bring in Lee Jones (centre) and Jenkins at scrum half.

Pontypridd v Newbridge
Gavin John (wing) and Rob Davies (scrum half) replace Pontypridd's back division but only Rowley remains from last week's cup XV in the tight five. Newbridge bring in the back row, Cardiff play Moore at scrum half, Griffiths at prop and Hembrow at lock.

□ Compiled by David Hands

Coaching pair work wonders

By DAVID HANDS

WITH only a fortnight of the league campaign left, Northampton have hit the top of the Courage Clubs Championship at a crucial time. They may yet be overhauled, but the onus is now on others to catch them, while at the same time their young team can savour the feeling — if only briefly — of leading the first division and promising themselves the chance of doing so for much longer.

For there is more to come from the Saints. The evidence is in the youthful strand which runs from Ian Hunter, aged 24, at full back to Gavin Baldwin, 23, at prop, strengthened by the experience of Gary Pearce, John Oliver and Wayne Shelford, and by the maturing this season of John Steele at stand-off half.

They have achieved so much so soon: a cup final last season, league leadership this. It is heady wine for this young vintage, owing much to the New Zea-

land influence of Shelford and Glenn Ross, in his first season as coach. "Glenn's input to the team has been phenomenal," Oliver, the hooker and captain, said. Oliver spent many years with Harlequins under the direction of Dick Best, now the England coach. The sheer force of Best's personality drove players to perform. At Northampton, Ross's key is efficiency.

"No session lasts more than an hour and a quarter. Training is hard, you don't stand around for a minute, but Glenn has it all worked out, we all know exactly what we are supposed to be doing and it's so enjoyable. Nothing is done without a ball. Players are totally clued in but there's nothing regimented about it, it's different each night."

Pearce, capped at prop 36 times by England, suggested he was good for three more years although he is 36. At Frankins Gardens the squad, young and old, is enjoying the balm of success, shadowed only by the knowledge of Orrell's

game in hand and the possibility that Shelford may have to serve a six-month qualification period next season when he returns.

That depends on new eligibility regulations being approved by the Rugby Football Union, although Shelford may well return in the role of assistant coach rather than first-team player.

Oliver said: "This six-month rule would be ridiculous for someone who has done so much for Eng-

lish rugby, by bringing on young players like Rodber, Bayfield and Baldwin. "It ought to be like cricket, where each club can nominate an overseas player who can play from the word go."

"We got to the cup final last year as an average side.

We had a good pack and we could dog it out with anybody, but there have been subtle changes in personnel. The centres have changed and we have a quality lineout now that Martin Bayfield has arrived and John Etheridge can play front jumper."

And without a doubt John Steele's development has been critical. Everyone was talking about him the year we won promotion and his next season after that was difficult. But with Glenn tutoring him along, as he has the whole back division, you can see how much he has improved. This team is unlikely to change much over the next few years. "The main question will be to see how we survive without Shelford, if his role should change."

Oliver: captain's praise

Roe playing it strictly by the book

FROM MEL WEBB
IN JERSEY

SOMEBOODY laid a large bet — alleged to be £1,000 at 40-1 — with local bookmaker this week that Mark Roe would win the Jersey European Airways Open at La Moye, and yesterday Roe brought the unsuspecting turf accountant up with a jolt by producing a 65 in the second round to take the clubhouse lead.

Roe, who has a total of 134, ten under par, was at first unwilling to reveal the name of the mystery punter, beyond saying that he had not bet on himself. However, when subjected to the relentless inquisition of the Fourth Estate, he finally cracked. It might, he

said, have been one Andrew Chandler, who just happens to be his manager.

So the spotlight and the sand-filled sock were turned on Chandler, who goes through life blessed, or cursed as it may be, with the sobriquet of "Chubby". The reasons for that need not be gone into here. Until comparatively recently a tournament professional himself, and making a rare appearance this week as a player courtesy of a sponsor's invitation, he feigned injured innocence, followed in short order by a small smile and a sheepish admission.

Yes, he said, he had indeed placed a small, or even not so small, wager on his man. It was, perhaps, just as well that

he did — he missed the cut by a distance. Now he has an excuse to stay for the weekend.

Sadly, the news of Chandler's confidence in his client came too late for anybody else to get on to the same horse. As soon as the bet was struck, the bookie cut Roe's odds in half. If he had seen him play he might have taken him off the book altogether.

Fourth last week in the Roma Masters, he has run into a rich vein of form based, he said, on increased confidence on the greens. After taking a look at La Moye's slow greens, he had put a heavier club in his bag and found that just as hot as the one he had used in Italy: seven single putts and seven

birdies proved his point, and not a birdie in sight.

He might, in fact, have been further in the lead had he not three-putted the 17th and 18th greens the night before. "I was pretty cold out there but I didn't want to put anything on to hide my new shirt," he said. The sacrifices some people will make to please a clothing contractor: it is a life of quiet courage and iron-willed self-denial, being a professional golfer.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND SCORES (36 and 18 holes stated) 134: M Roe, 69, 55; 137: P Smith, 97, 70; D Carty, 70, 67, 65; 140: G Llewellyn, 71, 72, 70, 69, 66; 140: R Lee, 70, 70, M Pocock, 71, 69, 66; 140: C Morris, 68, 71; C Potts, 70, 70, 141: E Darcy, 68, 73, 142: D Phipps, 68, 74, 142: M Davies, 69, 75, 145: S Bowman (US), 69, 76; P Carty, 72, 72, A Chantrey, 72, 73, 146: P Le Chantrey, 71, 75, 147: R Drummond, 71, 76; 148: W Guy, 73, 75, J Hall, 70, 72, 149: M Miller, 73, 79, 150: J Maccallum, 70, 70.

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Confident Eastbourne prepare to celebrate

EASTBOURNE continued their march towards the final stages of the Halford Hewitt Cup with a 3 and 2 win over Rugby at Royal St George's, Sandwich, yesterday.

Today they tread new ground over the Royal Cinque Ports links at Deal against Edinburgh Academy for a place in the final eight.

Peter Davies, their skipper, has little doubt about the outcome. He has already bought an engraved silver cup to celebrate the first-round victory over Shrewsbury, the holders and favourites.

The wunderkinder will see us through," he said, singling out Martin Patmore and Mark Stewart. Yesterday they

won 8 and 6 after Nigel Parsons and Chris Bradshaw lost 9 and 8 in the opening match.

Paul Wickman and Jeremy Miller, both Walton Heath, won 5 and 4 after losing the opening three holes, but then Chris Walker and Robert Meaby, one up at the 15th, lost by one hole.

In the final match Brian Meaby produced the shot of the tournament at the 13th. He was 60 yards left of the pin with his opponents three-and-a-half feet from the hole. His pitch and run finished two inches from the cup to provide the base for another Eastbourne success.

Results, page 55

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern hope to limit the damage

By KEITH MACKIN

TO ALL intents and purposes, Wigan sewed up the Stones Bitter championship last weekend at Featherstone. But mathematics insists that they gain at least one point from today's home game with Bradford Northern to make absolutely certain.

Wigan will surely do it, especially because Ian Lucas, who has a broken wrist, is the only player missing from the squad that humiliated Northern 71-10 in the Sella Cup semi-final.

Northern have caused upsets at Central Park in the past and in the corresponding fixture last season they drew 18-18 after leading for much of the game. However, that particular Wigan side was leg weary and riddled with injuries, whereas today's side is comparatively fresh. The best Northern can hope for is to restore some pride by keeping the score within bounds.

There are plenty of other important issues still to be settled tomorrow. St Helens, who hope and expect to finish in second place with home ties in the premiership, are without a match, but Leeds and Castleford have tough tests against relegation-haunted sides as they bid for places in the top four.

Leeds visit Featherstone, who are two points above the relegation zone, and the Headingley team can expect a reception every bit as tough as that which greeted Wigan. Castleford, who may well be concentrating now on the Wembley final against Wigan, go to Halifax, also too close to the lower reaches of the table for comfort.

Hull, holders of the premiership, need to beat fading Widnes to ensure survival and assuming that Bradford fall at Wigan, Salford will have every incentive to stay above them and by garnering two points against Hull KR, who have their sights set on a play-off position.

CYCLING

Doyle is keen to keep busy

By PETER BRYAN

TONY Doyle, twice world professional pursuit champion, has been sweeping successes at Bournemouth in the preliminary round, beating Bedfordshire 9-0, Dorset 5-1 and Cumbria 6-1. Yorkshire achieved a 3-1 win over Cheshire, having earlier defeated Northumberland 6-1. Sussex 5-0 and Norfolk 8-0.

Tomorrow's final at the velodrome will be preceded by the under-21 final between Essex and Nottinghamshire.

SWIMMING

Bennett leads Nova's charge

BY CRAIG LORD

ALEX Bennett set a British junior record to give Nova Centurion's women a fine start to the Mycif British club team championships in Shetland yesterday.

Influenced by the magnificent conditions at the Ponds Forge sports complex, Bennett, aged 15, laid to rest any doubts that she is now the nation's leading junior backstroke swimmer by adding the 50 metres record, in

brands, including the goal-keeper, Simon Mason, expect to get past the Royal Air Force, but can expect a different ball game in the semi-final against either Yorkshire or Chelmsford.

The winner of the Surrey Kent game will play either Buckinghamshire or Lancashire in the second semi-final tomorrow. Buckinghamshire, with Shaw, of Great Britain, guiding their fortunes, face no easy task today against Lancashire, who beat Cornwall 6-0 and Cambridgeshire 4-1 in the preliminary round.

Somerset, who have called on 13 players from Fire

events, after the favourites, City of Leeds, failed to place a man in the last eight of the 100 metres backstroke. Stephen Akers made up for Yorkshire's disappointment, however, by winning the 1,500 metres freestyle, a heat-declared-winner race, after clocking 15 min 37.77 sec.

RESULTS: Men: 1,500m freestyle: 1, 8 Akers (City of Leeds), 15min 37.77sec; 2, 5 Moseley (Gateshead), 15min 24.3sec; 3, 4 Coombes (Plymouth), 15min 24.1sec.

Small a defence of one's hopes is a play-off position to the final.

Douglas, one of Europe's top six-day riders, had his season ended abruptly in the Antwerp event, fracturing his pelvis. But Doyle is a bantler, as he showed after his near-fatal accident in the Munich "six" two years ago. He returned to the 1991 race with Danny Clark, of Australia.

Earlier this week he inspired a breakaway trio in the Archer grand prix road race in his first event since his fall. Tomorrow, he rides in the 96-mile Tour of the Marshes based at New Romney, Kent.

"It's a testing course and riders have to expect strong winds off the sea," he said. With rain forecast, the race will not be one for the faint-hearted.

Doyle sees the race as a part of the build-up for an international track programme which could include the world 5,000 metres pursuit in Valencia next September.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern hope to limit the damage

WHEREAS the FA Cup final next month could yet feature a couple of comparative lightweights from the second division, the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow pits together the nation's heavyweight knockout specialists. At least, that is how the contest between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest was originally billed.

Forest have since been weakened and may resemble a pugilist who has struggled to make the weight. The image is appropriate. Because of their success in cup competitions this season, they recently had to play three times in a week to catch up on their League schedule.

Some of the muscles and limbs which have been exercised so regularly, have, inevitably, been either torn or twisted. Consequently, Forest are unlikely to be able to protect themselves sufficiently against United, who have been established as the favourites to win a trophy they have never before collected.

The loss of Stuart Pearce, who damaged knee ligaments

during the victory over Southampton in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final a fortnight ago, could scarcely be more significant. There can be no adequate replacement for him, either as a spiritual leader or as a power-house of a left back.

The captain of England when Lineker is absent, Pearce has lifted Forest to three other triumphs at Wembley in the last four years. Without him, they have no one capable of smothering the obvious threat posed by the young player of the year, Ryan Giggs, on the right flank.

As if that was not bad enough, they will also be without Carl Tiler, who suffered a similar injury at The Dell on Wednesday. Nor is that the end of their potential problems. Darren Wassall, Steve Chettle and Gary Charles are all considered to be doubtful.

Their defence, therefore, could be threadbare before the start. If so, it is sure to have disintegrated by the end. Now that Lee Sharpe is returning to the form which earned him international recognition a year ago, United are again a penetrative attacking force as they demonstrated at Norwich City.

Alex Ferguson, having persisted in playing a game of musical chairs with his squad, claimed then that he had found the pattern for which he had been searching. He retained it in mid-week for a local derby, the ferocity of which will contrast with the approach habitually pursued by Brian Clough's side.

Although Bryan Robson is likely again to be unavailable, Ferguson could reinforce his own defence, the strongest in the first division, by replacing Mal Donaghy with Paul Parker. Absent for five games, he confirmed his recovery from a hamstring strain by performing with the reserves, along with Neil Webb and Mike Phelan, on Thursday.

Forest's elegance will enhance the occasion but their style promises to suit their opponents as much as the turf. After ploughing through the mudflats known as Old Trafford, United will relish gliding across the smooth greenery inside the national stadium and claiming their fourth Cup within two calendar years.

The additional prize is qualification for next season's UEFA Cup, a place they would forfeit if they achieve their prime ambition, a place in the European Cup which would be their right as champions. The glittering prospect which has shown signs of unnerving them in the past few weeks, could, in turn, now be a slight distraction.

Forest have been responsible for imprinting a rare blemish on their season. One of their three League defeats was inflicted by Nigel Clough's lone goal at the City Ground three weeks ago. The return fixture is to be staged in Manchester on Easter Monday.

That may not be the last time they meet. A replay of the final, should it be necessary, has been scheduled for Goodison Park on May 6. Considering the respective records of the two clubs, a draw should not be discounted. United, other than being eliminated from the FA Cup on penalties, and Forest have each lost only one of their collective 34 ties this season.

NOTT FOREST

A Marriott	1	P Schmeichel
B Laws	2	P Parker
B Williams	3	D Irwin
D Walker	4	S Bruce
D Wassall	5	G Palister
R Keane	6	P Ince
G Crosby	7	L Sharpe
S Gemmill	8	C Blackmore or N Webb
N Clough	9	B McClair
E Sheringham	10	M Hughes
K Black	11	R Giggs

SUBSTITUTES: 12: L Glover; 13: I Woan.

Referee: G Courtney.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Nottingham Forest

Second round: First leg: Bolton Wanderers (h) 4-0 (Keane, Gaynor, 2, Black); Second leg: 2-0 (Sheringham, Keane, 2, Gaynor, Black). Forest won 6-2 on aggregate. Third round: Bristol Rovers (h) 2-0 (Glover, Gemmill). Fourth round: Southampton (h) 0-0. Replay: 0-0. Fifth round: Crystal Palace (a) 1-1 (Clough, Ripley); 4-2 (Sheringham, 3, Pearce). Semi-final: First leg: Tottenham Hotspur (h) 1-1 (Shearer); Second leg: 2-1 after extra time (Glover, Giggs). United won 3-2 on agg.森林在 3-2 胜出。

BETTING: (Coris): 5-4; Manchester United, 11-8; Nottingham Forest.

MAN UNITED

P Schmeichel
P Parker
D Irwin
S Bruce
G Palister

SUBSTITUTES: 12: M Phelan; 13: A Kanchelskis.

Referee: G Courtney.

MANCHESTER UNITED

Second round: First leg: Cambridge United (h) 3-0 (Giggs, McClair, Bruce); Second leg: 1-1 (McClair). United won 4-1 on agg. Third round: Portsmouth (h) 3-1 (Robins, 2, Robson). Fourth round: Oldham Athletic (h) 2-0 (McClair, Kanchelskis). Semi-final: First leg: Middlesbrough (a) 0-0. Second leg: 2-1 after extra time (Giggs, Giggs). United won 2-0 on agg. BETTING: (Coris): 5-4; Manchester United, 11-8; Nottingham Forest.

On the ball: United may benefit if Giggs exploits the gap left by Pearce

First division

EVERTON v SHEFFIELD UNITED

Arsenal v Crystal Palace

Will Palace hit on the right way to restrict Ian Wright? They expect to find Salford Park's former favourite forward more than a match for a high-flying team like Palace without defeat. But Steve Coppell's side can draw strength from only one loss in its last seven games. A few high balls could be flying at Highbury where Arsenal give Winterbottom and Dixon the task of continuing to outwit the unsettled Smith. Palace are without Rodger but recall Mortimer. They will be only too well aware that seven goals in their last five games have made Arsenal the first division's leading scorers.

Aston Villa v Liverpool

Dalan Atkinson has failed to live up to expectations at Villa Park, but as offered the chance to salvage something from a disappointing season by being recalled to the attack after returning from a ban, Smith will be back in time to assist in defence for the injured Stauton, once of Liverpool, while Doherty hopes to return on the wing. Yorke plays his final Villa game before leaving to represent Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup qualifying challenge. Villa will trust that Liverpool are distracted by thoughts of the FA Cup semi-final replay with Port Vale on Monday. Ronny Moore, in charge of Graeme Souness' recovery, chooses from 18.

Everton v Sheffield United

A single defeat in their last seven games has ensured that Sheffield United's status among the elite is secure for at least another season. They could offer Ward and Hartfield a first taste of the top flight while Everton may include Collett and Kevin, two forwards who apparently have no part in Howard Kendall's long term plans. Keown faces a late fitness test on the knee.

LEEDS v CHELSEA

One win in their past five games has taken much of the fizz out of Leeds United's championship challenge, but if they win today, they could move into the top four. The Blues, however, are in the ascendancy. Speculation over who is in charge next term will have to make do without Lineker, who has spurned a knock. Luton are untested, but must realistically require a Coventry win before laying any Premier League claim. They are in the ascendancy, the subject of much speculation. Whoever is in charge next term will have to make do without Lineker, who has spurned a knock. Luton are untested, but must realistically require a Coventry win before laying any Premier League claim. They are in the ascendancy, the subject of much speculation. Whoever is in charge next term will have to make do without Lineker, who has spurned a knock. Luton are untested, but must realistically require a Coventry win before laying any Premier League claim. 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